

# THE SHAKERITE

March 27, 2008 • Volume 78 • Issue 7 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

I couldn't wait until 9:00 p.m.! I was having a sleepover party. I invited Beth, Tracey, Kim, Diane, and Lori. 9:00 p.m. was when everyone was coming. The first to arrive was Diane. She arrived 15 minutes early. I should have known she had been

The first to arrive was Diane. She was fifteen minutes early. I should have expected that since she had been my best friend since third grade. Shortly after she came, Kim and Beth arrived together. We were in the middle of my room talking about Mrs. Sprince, our teacher, when Lori and Tracey came. After stuffing ourselves with pizza and chips, we went back into my room and started packing our sleeping bags. It was time to go to bed.

of my  
ance, our teacher,  
cey came.  
after stuffing ourselves with pizza  
til 11:00 p.m., we went back into my  
om to set up our sleeping bags. I  
as having so much fun! It only took  
as ten minutes to set up. After that we  
could talk all night. But the fun was  
about to change.

Five minutes after we started  
talking, Kim said, "I'm bored," in a  
bored tone. She reached for her

# QUALITY TIME WITH WENDY

WHETHER IT'S HAMBURGERS, FRIES OR FROSTIES,  
SHAKER STUDENTS CHOOSE WENDY'S FOR  
MIDDAY LUNCHES AND LATE NIGHT SNACKS.  
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS FAST FOOD JOINT THAT  
WE LOVE SO MUCH?

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# Student group celebrates its Silver anniversary

# A look back at SGORR's first 25 years

## Noteworthy, Page 4

# SGORR in the high school, community

Shaker Speaks, Page 9



The image shows the Wendy's logo, which consists of the word "Wendy's" in a stylized, white, blocky font with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end. Below the logo is a black, decorative flourish. Underneath the logo is a yellow banner with a black border containing the text "OLD FASHIONED" on the top line and "HAMBURGERS." on the bottom line, both in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

## TAKING A GAP

## AFTER BURNING OUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS TAKE A YEAR TO BREATHE AND GROW BEFORE COLLEGE

## OLYMPICS BOYCOTT?

## GUEST WRITER ROBERT ABRAMS EXPOSES CHINA'S TIES TO DARFUR AND CHALLENGES U.S. SUPPORT OF THE BEIJING OLYMPICS

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## COVER SHOT

Twenty-five years after being founded by a group of elveln students, the Student Group on Race Relations has expanded to include over 250 high school students. Graphic by Allison Scharfstein

# What's Inside

03.27.08

## EDITORS' NOTE

### Cashing in on AP testing

Usually, the reward for working hard, spending time studying and paying close attention on the test results in a good grade, a B or even an A if you really put in the extra effort. Yet some states are adding an additional prize for superior achievement that comes in the form of a cash reward.

New York City, with the largest public school system in the country, is experimenting with monetary rewards for elementary school students who ace standardized exams. Students can earn up to \$50 per exam and teachers and principals are also eligible for rewards based on their students' performances. The state has seen improvement in both scores and student attitudes since the implementation of the incentive program.

Paying students based on their test scores is definitely a powerful way to improve performance. It also has the potential to make achieving in school a more socially acceptable ideal for elementary and high school students. Students learn that hard work and persistence can lead to tangible rewards they enjoy.

Yet the incentive system is inherently flawed. It replaces intrinsic motivation to achieve for learning's sake with the external motivation for reward. Practically all excitement about education is sucked out in favor of cash prizes. Later in life, these students will struggle when their effort is not immediately met with concrete rewards. The incentive system, while boosting the students' scores now, will leave them hanging later on in life and cause them to struggle to regain internal motivation and drive.

There are circumstances in which monetary aid is not only acceptable, but necessary. It should be true that dishing out \$24.99 on a review book, spending long hours preparing study guides and outlining potential essay questions and investing in those ever-productive Starbucks study-sessions is enough to ace an AP test. But here in Ohio and in most other states, add to that tab \$84 each per AP test, which quickly adds up if you've mustered the energy to take multiple AP classes this year. The high costs of AP testing has the potential to discourage many capable students from enrolling in the school's most challenging courses due to the hefty associated costs.

Florida's working to right this unfair situation. The state government of Florida covers all fees related to the administration of AP exams for students in Florida's public high schools, even if they don't achieve a passing score on the test. Covering the costs of these tests encourages students to take challenging AP classes by easing their concern over the price of the final exam.

Covering AP costs is an example of the ideal use of funds to support students in education. Students' internal drives to accomplish educational goals are maintained while superfluous costs that detract from achievement are alleviated.



WESLEY  
LOWERY



ALLISON  
SCHARFSTEIN

## DECIPHERING THE MADNESS

•THE RAIDER  
ZONE EDITORS  
EXAMINE THE  
ART OF  
BRACKETOLOGY,  
WHILE GIVING  
THEIR PICKS  
FOR THIS YEAR'S  
MEN'S NCAA  
TOURNAMENT

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## SHAKER STUDENTS HIT IT BIG WITH VIRAL VIDEOS

JOIN US AS WE COUNT DOWN THE TOP 5 VIDEOS FROM SHAKER.  
FROM DANCING JARS OF MAYO TO BREAK DANCING AND KILLER  
VENDING MACHINES.

WILL YOUR VIDEO MAKE THE CUT?

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## THE SHAKERITE

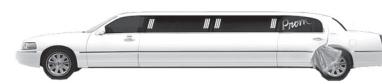
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## PROM SEASON IN FULL SWING

AS GROUPS ARE FORMED AND  
RESERVATIONS MADE HAS IT  
ALREADY BECOME OVERWHELMING?



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Shaker Heights  
Teacher's Association

# SHTA

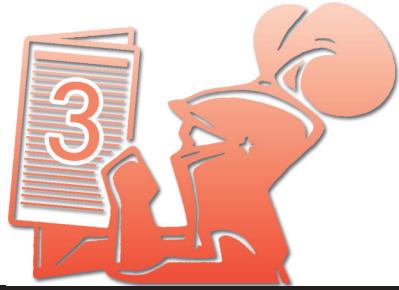
Professionals  
Dedicated to Educating  
Shaker Youth

# This Month

03.27.08

## MORE THAN APRIL SHOWERS

Ohio weather is far from ideal. But each year when April rolls around, people like to think the weather is finally going to break. However, April 11, 1965 went down in history when an outbreak of 37 tornadoes swept through the Midwest killing 256 people. Of the casualties, 55 people were killed in Ohio, making it the second deadliest day of tornadoes in Ohio history. The only large Ohio city to be hit was Toledo, where a tornado touched down and left a six-mile long path of destruction. So here's to once again hoping that this April will be accompanied by some pleasant weather, despite its nasty history.



## BREAKING AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL SPRING PLANS



Seniors Claire Gustafson and Esther Kim are planning to spend spring break in Hilton Head, South Carolina with classmates Emily Cameron, Kate McCormick and Claire Rymond. The girls will drive down with parent chaperones and will be renting a house that includes a private pool. The group plans to spend time enjoying poolside reading, playing games like monopoly and charades and having themed dinner nights. Gustafson looks forward to Mexican dinner night. "I can't wait to try lots of different chips and salsa combinations," said Gustafson.



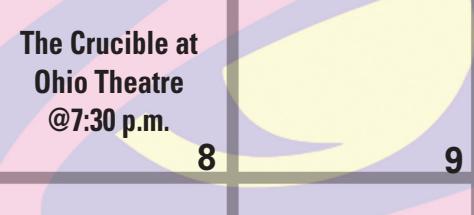
For his spring break, Junior Christian Foreman will be going to Florida with the varsity baseball team where they will train at the IMG Sports Academy near Tampa. This is Foreman's first year on varsity, and he has very high hopes for the season. "We have a great team and I think we're going to play really well this year," Foreman said. While in Florida, the team will workout, do some community service activities and play three games against teams from Florida and Illinois. Coaches Mike Babinec and Dave Rainer will make the trip with the team. They are scheduled to leave March 31 and return April 5.



Junior Alex Komp isn't going to the beach this spring break; instead, she will be going on college visits. Komp plans to visit several Ohio schools including The Ohio State University, Ohio University and Miami University. Komp will be traveling with her dad, and although some people may think college visiting isn't the most exciting way to spend spring break, she deems it necessary. "Preparing for college sucks, but it's something that everyone has to do," said Komp.

Compiled by Abby Schiller

# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		 April Fool's Day 1		Spring Break 2		3
					 Kimya Dawson at the Grog Shop @ 9:00 p.m. 4	5
		 The Crucible at Ohio Theatre @7:30 p.m. 6			 Spring Fling at the High School @8:00 p.m. 7	12
Minus the Bear at House of Blues @ 7:00 p.m.	Classes Resume	Titanic Remembrance Day 8	9			Passover begins at sundown 10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	 Girl Scout Leader Day 22		 Alicia Keys at The Wolstein Center @ 7:30 p.m. 23		Passover ends 24
27	28		 Hairstyle Appreciation Day 29			26
			30			

## Taco Bell delivers one of the best Fool's Day pranks ever

It's hard to pull off an April Fool's Day prank that will be remembered forever, but in 1996 the Taco Bell corporation did just that.

On April 1, 1996, a full-page ad appeared in six major newspapers throughout the country announcing that Taco Bell had purchased the Liberty Bell.

The ad explained that Taco Bell made the purchase in an attempt to help diminish national debt. It continued to explain that the Liberty Bell would now be called the "Taco Liberty Bell." It would still be available for public view, splitting its time between Philadelphia and the Taco Bell headquarters in Irvine, California.

Taco Bell continued saying that the popular fast food chain's heritage and imagery was based on the Liberty Bell, and that the corporation had been hoping to purchase it for quite some time.

This shocking announcement generated massive public response. Thousands of citizens called both the Taco Bell headquarters and the National Park Service in outrage.

Later that day, Taco Bell released a second statement admitting their hoax. The company described it as the best joke of the day (maybe of all time) and announced that they would be donating \$50,000 for the preservation of the Liberty Bell.

Compiled by Abby Schiller



[www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)



## LUDLOW BENEFIT CONCERT UNITES SHAKER

A concert benefiting the Ludlow community in the wake of the beating of Kevin McDermott was hosted March 9 in the large auditorium. The designated purpose of the concert was to remind the community that Shaker Heights is a place where people find lasting friends, an excellent education and a wonderful neighborhood. The neighborhood is recognized as one of the nation's first communities to initiate and maintain a stable integrated region. The concert featured the Verlezza Dance troupe staging its rendition of 'Tobi Roppo,' in combination with student and other professional performances.

# NoteWorthy

03.27.08

## *Student Group on Race Relations*

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

- After 25 years of addressing human relations and interactions, the Student Group on Race Relations continues to positively represent Shaker

BY ALEXA SYKES  
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Because of the efforts of 11 students 25 years ago, the Student Group on Race Relations still exists with the same enthusiasm it had in 1983.

What started as an effort to unite students by overcoming stereotypes and discrimination has become one of the most revered and respected student-run programs in the high school and the community.

The idea for the program sparked from reactions to an assembly featuring guest speaker John Gray, who purposely used several politically incorrect stereotypes. Former Shaker teacher Zachary Green organized the assembly, asking students to consider when stereotypes become noticeable. When most students answered sixth grade, the program had a focus. "These students that were affected decided they wanted to work with 6th graders to warn them that when they get to middle school, people stereotype," said 25-year SGORR adviser Marcia Jaffe, who

took over the program when Green left the district that year.

For the first 15 years, SGORR was only aimed at sixth grade students before expanding to include fourth graders. Jaffe believes, however, it was designed primarily to benefit high school students. "You can't teach high schoolers by telling them something . . . they learn because they think they're teaching someone else, but really they're teaching themselves," she said.

History teacher Terry Pollock, a 44-year Shaker employee, believes the program equally benefits elementary and high school students. "[SGORR] turns high school kids on to better understanding themselves, and elementary kids see role models coming in who clearly pride themselves in understanding race relations."

Originally, there were 15 leaders, and each chose a diverse group of four friends, making a total of 60 members. Meetings were held once a week in the second floor library loft. As time pressed on, the club became too big and the second floor was eventually destroyed, so each leader became individually responsible for meeting with their group. Jaffe encouraged them to meet outside of school, creating a diverse circle of friends. Leaders then decided to rotate weekly meetings at each member's house, a tradition SGORR members continue today.



Courtesy of Marcia Jaffe

## Program impacts students, teachers, other schools

BY ALEXA SYKES  
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

They may have joined to get free pizza every week, add another club to their college applications or proudly wear a red, blue or gray t-shirt each year. Whatever the reason, Student Group on Race Relations members and Shaker administrators express gratitude and respect for the program, while few believe it is overrated and outdated.

"SGORR has not only gotten me more involved in my community by working with younger children and teachers, but has also become a great way for me to make friends with other people," said senior SGORR member Lauren Lewis, who first experienced

SGORR in fourth grade. SGORR leader Rob Gleisser believes that many are drawn to SGORR because of good memories, but the effective program facilitates discussions about racial issues. "It has brought knowledge not only in race, but how to solve problems that are a result of race relations," he said. SGORR member Ayanna Smith believes the primary goal is for every age group to understand the importance of diversity. "I think it's important to fight for diversity. I joined because I wanted to work with kids and see how I could help keep this community diverse," she said. Conversely, Gay-Straight Alliance president Patrick Matthews thinks SGORR is over glorified. "GSA and SGORR are the same thing, just two different minorities."

#[SGORR] has brought knowledge not only in race, but how to solve problems that are a result of race relations.##

Rob Gleisser  
Sophomore

Matthews transferred in 8th grade and never observed SGORR from the elementary perspective. "I think it is just a good memory of kids missing school to talk to high schoolers." Still, he agrees that the program's emphasis on acceptance has the right aim. "It has the right motive, but I think it's a wee outdated," he said. Lewis believes the program will continue to thrive and "get the message of tolerance and acceptance out there." Ten years ago SGORR expanded to include "SGORR community," which visits schools within the Cleveland area. According to Jaffe, other organizations often request SGORR to come to their schools. Jaffe receives emails from schools such as Gesu and John Carroll, and even parents who have moved out of Shaker.

## FROM LIBRARY TO SOUTH AFRICA: THE JOURNEY OF SGORR

1983

SGORR is created by 11 Shaker students in reaction to the John Gray Assembly about stereotypes



1996

After 14 years of existence and rapidly increasing membership,

SGORR reaches the lower elementary schools and is now offered to both 4th and 6th grade students.



1998

SGORR t-shirts are now available to all SGORR members, made from the original design by one of the original 11 students.



2003

SGORR reaches South Africa after a Shaker graduate, who was not even a member of SGORR, saw that the schools could benefit from SGORR activities



Photos courtesy of Marcia Jaffe  
Compiled by Alexa Sykes

# BETTER PREP, BETTER SCORE

- While several students still struggle to pass sections of the OGT, free tutoring is now available to ensure success

BY NATALIE VICCHIO  
STAFF REPORTER

As of 2007, the lowest percentage of Shaker students passing a section of the Ohio Graduation Test was 72% on the science section. With the state standard at 75%, Shaker now offers free tutoring in order to assist those students who struggle to pass, and ensure Shaker exceeds the standard in all subjects.

"It's important for each student to take advantage of all the opportunities to get help for the OGT," said OGT Intervention Coordinator Karen Slovikovski. She explained that there are several OGT intervention classes offered both in and out of the high school. The most recognizable intervention series is Quest, an after-school program that meets twice a week and consists of two groups: tenth grade students who are "first-time" OGT participants and juniors and seniors hoping for success in round two or three.

**IF STUDENTS ARE UNABLE TO PASS A SUBJECT AREA OF THE OGT, THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO GRADUATE. STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:**

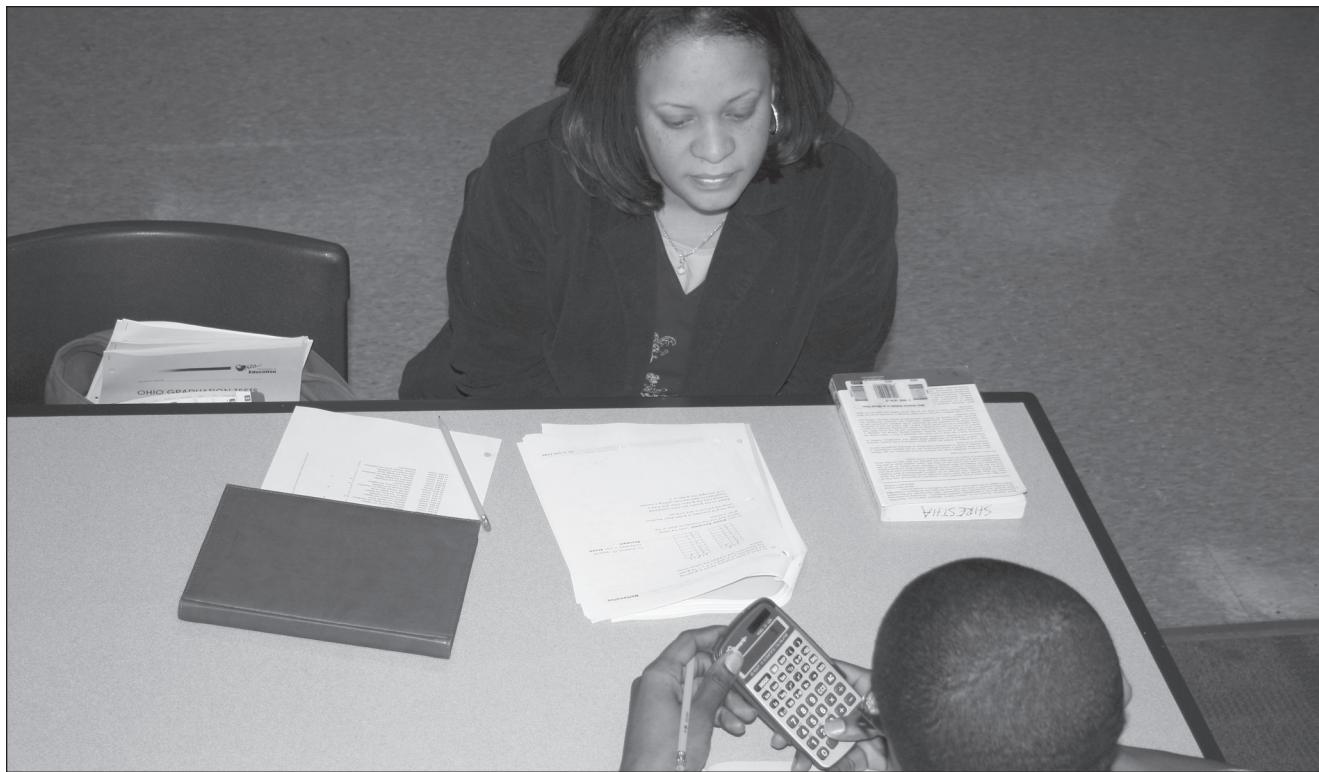
1. A certain GPA in the subject area that they cannot pass
2. Attempted the subject area as many times possible
3. Be within 10 points of passing (score of 390)
4. 95% attendance in the entirety of high school
5. Subject teacher's recommendation for students' content strength

confident because my teacher explains [questions] to me so I understand," she continued.

Sophomore Alyse Whiting also attended the Quest science program to ensure that she would find success. "I just want to make sure I score high," Whiting said.

**"I feel more confident because my teacher explains [the test questions] to me so I understand better."**

Ashlie Martin  
Junior



Alexa Sykes • The Shakerite

TUTORING SESSIONS FOR 11th and 12th grade students are held in the cafeteria during periods 9 and 10. Unfortunately, while the classes tend to have about 3 to 4 students, OGT tutors notice that only 1 or 2 show up on a regular basis.

Additional OGT preparation takes place in class. Tenth grade teachers aid students by distributing practice tests in every OGT subject area, excluding writing.

Beginning this school year, tenth grade biology teachers at all three levels have used the two weeks before the scheduled OGT date to help their students. According to science department head Robert Sylak, upperclassmen who previously failed the test can also attend by receiving permission from their own science teachers.

The social studies department also offers OGT tutoring. Department head Charles Longo and teacher Tim Kalan assess which students would benefit from extra help in history by analyzing students' test grades and overall class performance.

These students are then pulled from their regular history classes for an OGT intervention class. Although the class is not required, Longo highly recommends students take advantage of the opportunity. "We want to give [students] as much information and as much personal one on one time as possible," he said.

Tim Kalan oversees the two and a half week social studies intervention course. He begins by determining each student's problem areas and then focuses on OGT questions relating to these topics.

"We try to cover test taking techniques in order to improve their chances of acing the exam," Kalan said.

The tutoring classes began about ten years ago to prepare students for the Ohio Proficiency Test. At the time, students were given the option to take the OPT when they were in eighth grade. According to principal Michael Griffith, the tutoring for this was designed to assist students who did not pass this test, not prepare the ones who had not taken it.

OGT scores are first mailed to high schools at the end of May and are then sent home to all the students who took the test. Passing students only receive their scores, while those needing to retake one or more sections receive their scores, as well as a registration form to enroll in an optional summer OGT tutoring program.

"For some people, test taking is really hard even though they have the knowledge," Principal Michael Griffith said.

## Full class periods make OGT week productive

BY EMILY GROSS-ROSENBLATT AND ALEXA SYKES  
STAFF REPORTER AND NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Twenty-minute classes give students enough time to take out materials, review a handout or two, and just as class is about to begin, the bell rings. Three years ago, classes during OGT week ran this way. According to Principal Michael Griffith, the OGT week schedule changed to offer 50-minute classes three times that week to ensure a "quality education".

The refined OGT schedule consists of testing from 8 a.m. until 10:40 a.m. All students should be in their first class by 11:30 a.m. Each afternoon students attended four 50 minute classes, except on Wednesday when they attended five 40 minute classes.

Principal Michael Griffith and department heads designed this schedule three years ago in response to the previously shortened class periods of about twenty minutes. This schedule originated when the change was made from administering the Ohio Proficiency Tests, to

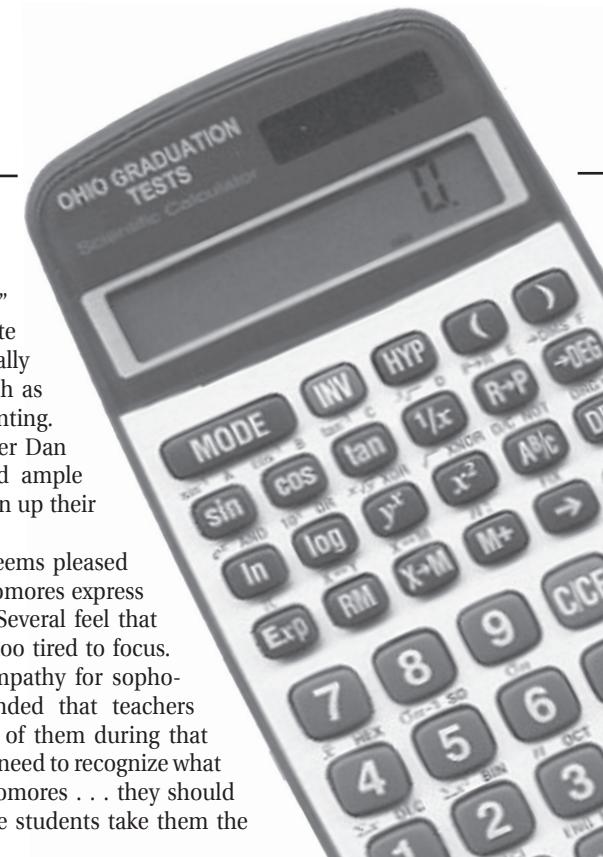
the Ohio Graduation Tests. Prior to the change, students took the OPT in 8th grade, resulting in a smaller number of students still needing to pass them when they reached tenth grade. Therefore, it was unnecessary to call off school for everyone.

Griffith and administrators seem very pleased with the new OGT schedule because we only lose two periods of each class a week. "Planning for this week was very well done . . . I think this schedule is going to stay for a while."

This year, on the first day of testing, a glitch in the computer system caused test packets not to match the students in the designated classrooms. "Either the people or the tests were in the wrong room," he said. However, while the problem took only 40 minutes to solve, it delayed the OGT schedule and pushed the start of classes to 12:14 p.m., causing them to be only 39 minutes that day. While students complain, teachers feel the schedule has improved over the years. Math teacher Michael Kabay said that with 20-minute classes "it was hard to

accomplish anything." The shift to 50-minute class periods has really benefited electives such as AP Portfolio and Painting. According to art teacher Dan Whitely, students need ample time to set up and clean up their materials each day.

While the faculty seems pleased with the change, sophomores express grief about the week. Several feel that after testing, they are too tired to focus. Griffith articulated sympathy for sophomores and recommended that teachers should be considerate of them during that week. "I think teachers need to recognize what is happening for sophomores . . . they should hold back tests or have students take them the week before."




**1. LOUDOUN, VA.**

March 18 – Jennifer Rose Allen, 24, was charged with providing alcohol to 13 juveniles. The school aide at a Loudoun County high school was arrested at a house party in Sterling March 14. School officials said yesterday that Allen had been removed from her job at Potomac Falls High School. She was released from the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center on an \$11,000 bond. Another person at the party, Steven M. Rodney, 19, of Sterling, was charged with being drunk in public and with underage possession of alcohol.

**2. MILLERSVILLE, PA**

March 11 - A student, who was given two days of detention for wearing a T-shirt bearing the image of a gun has filed suit, accusing the school district of violating his freedom of speech. Donald Miller III, 14, went to Penn Manor High School in December wearing a T-shirt he said was intended to honor his uncle, a soldier fighting in Iraq. Officials at the Millersville School told him to turn his shirt inside out, and when Miller refused, he was given detention. His parents, Donald and Tina Miller, have accused the Penn Manor School District of violating their son's First Amendment rights. The school claims that displaying the image of a gun in school violates the district's policy, designed to create a safe environment for students.

**3. SEYMOUR, CONN**

March 11 - Twenty-two-year-old Olga Louniakova of East Haven has been charged with reckless endangerment, criminal attempt to commit an assault after she allegedly put Visine eye drops in the water bottle of an instructor at the Oxford Academy for Hair Design. The eye drop solution lowers body temperatures to dangerous levels, makes breathing difficult, and brings on nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, seizures and even coma. Police believe that Louniakova had a problem with another student at the school and had intended to put the solution in that person's bottle.

**4. SEASIDE, CALIF.**

March 12 – Amanda Rouse, a 15-year-old girl, stopped her out-of-control school bus March 12. The Marina High School student was on a bus with 40 elementary school students when, after a turn, the driver fell out of her seat and hit her head. Rouse jumped up and applied the brakes, bringing the bus to a halt after striking two parked cars. No one was injured. Rouse said she fell ill on the way to school, but instead of calling in sick, she asked the bus driver for a lift back to the bus yard before the accident happened. Despite these heroic efforts, Rouse was given a Saturday detention as punishment for failing to be in class that day.




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## Students walking out for peace

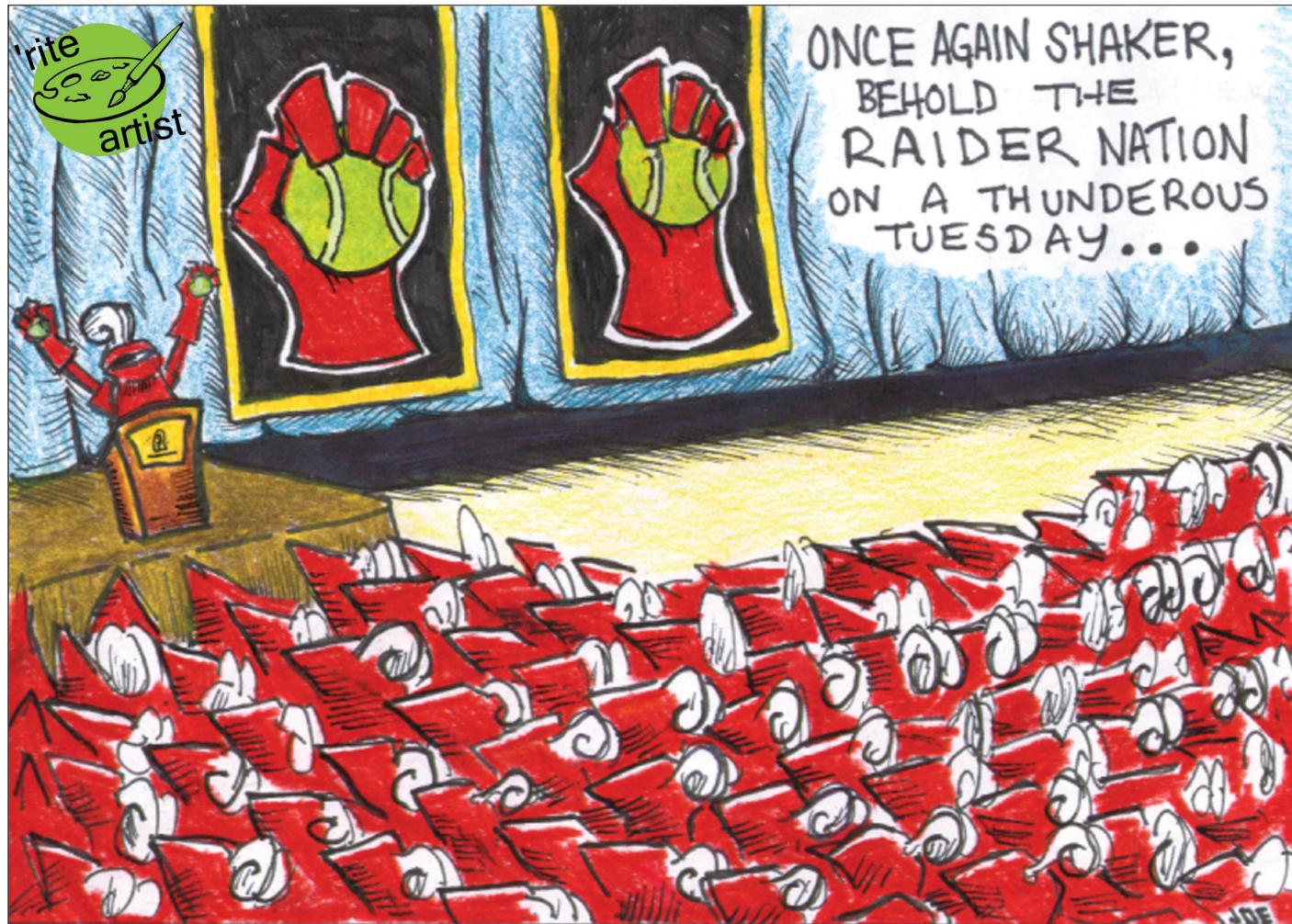


Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Lena Newman, Mandy Goldman, Katherine Foster, Jennifer Chisholm and Viveca Tress march down Superior Ave. March 20 as a part of a protest against the war in Iraq. The protest marked the fifth anniversary of the war and was organized by the Shaker Heights High School chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. The march started in Public Square and ended at the Federal Building.

## GUN CONTROL CONTROVERSY

The Supreme Court is currently reviewing Washington D.C.'s strict gun control legislation. Today in our nation's capitol it is almost impossible to own a handgun. Numerous pro-gun ownership organizations are flocking to this case to overturn the law and thus prevent any form of gun control in the United States. We must come to terms with gun control. Our gun murder numbers outpace every industrialized nation in the world by thousands. We must take handguns out of the common American home.



Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

## Gap year stops senior burn out

**I**srael really has got it right.

Their students after serving in the army spend at least one year traveling across the world before they head to university or the work force. While Israeli society differs greatly from ours in Shaker Heights, Ohio, there is much we can learn from their ideas about growing up.

Here in the United States, we as a student body are expected to progress immediately from high school to college without a pause. Our peers, parents, teachers and guidance counselors expect us to know what we want to do in the real world at age 18, without ever having experienced it.

This is essentially impossible. Without ever having spent time living on our own, without the constant structure of a school setting, we never have time to figure out what we actually want to do with our lives.

Thus, we jump into college with no clear direction to take. We are confused, lost and exhausted from the years we have spent in organized education.

Gap years give students an opportunity to take time away from learning, which gives them a chance to learn about the world and themselves. Students are able to actually live for a while before continuing on into the pressures of higher academia or occupations.

The backpacking trip in Europe to find yourself

sounds cliché, but there is a reason that so many people do it. Exploring another country and its culture is an invaluable experience that can teach a young person as much if not more than a university course.

Not only are these breaks a great opportunity to improve your personal health, but also they are often a way for students to give back, both locally and abroad. City Year offers students the chance to work as tutors, mentors and role models to urban kids for 10 months.

Another opportunity is AmeriCorps in which teens work as tutors, home-builders, cleaning public parks and streams and helping disaster-impacted communities.

Abroad options include the Council on International Education Exchange, Outreach International and Travellers Worldwide.

Working with these organizations is the ideal response to our nation's leaders call for an increase in civil service. Our elders continue to claim we are an apathetic generation with no connection to community, country and greater world. But maybe it's not that we're apathetic but rather we are burnt out from 13 years of continuous schooling.

The rigid tradition of students going directly to higher education or the workforce has long been thought to be the best plan for our country's young people. This discipline must be put to rest.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GAP YEARS?  
SEE PAGE 10 FOR BACKGROUND ON TAKING TIME OFF AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

The rigid tradition of students going directly to higher education or the workforce has long been thought to be the best plan for our country's young people. This discipline must be put to rest.

## Stuck on prom planning

**T**he supposedly definitive moment of the high school experience is just around the corner - if you consider two months to be just around the corner. But as groups are being put together and deposits on limousines are being made, my enthusiasm for prom is already starting to wane.

For me, prom was always something to look forward to. In middle school, it was a mythic gathering swathed in silver, exclusive to the impossibly cool older siblings of my friends. I couldn't wait to be a senior just so I could go to prom. By the time I reached high school, prom had begun to lose some of its sheen, but it was still a much anticipated event. I imagined that prom would be something akin to the dance in "Pretty in Pink," more about a fantastic dress and less about the actual event.

Finally reaching the point where lists are being written and revised and money is changing hands, I'm not so sure what it was about prom that had me so excited in the first place. Isn't it just another dance? Prom has been elevated, not only by students, but also by society. In countless movies and television shows, prom is an extravaganza of organizing and spending, the apex of high school.

Getting a large group of teenagers to agree on a limousine service, a restaurant and an after party is certainly a feat of both organization and negotiation. But all of the spending is hard to reconcile. And I certainly hope that prom isn't as good as it gets in terms of my high school experience. It is, in its essence, only a school dance.

I suppose there is something to be said for prom being a formal event. Formal events require that attendees spend more money, so deeming prom "formal" makes it stand apart from other school dances.

But if prom, as many believe, is more than a dance and is truly the senior class' last cohesive event before graduation, shouldn't it be more about having a good time together and less about spending as much money as our parents are willing to give us?

Despite all my qualms, I will be attending prom. I guess I've reached the post-prom stage, acknowledging the irony that prom is both 'the dance' and just another dance. All at once, it is both the one night to remember and one of many nights to remember.

Adults seem to remember prom in two different lights. Those who went generally share fond but vague memories of the dance.

Those who didn't still seem defiant about it, wallowing in their fading hipster glow. Maybe this is a clue at how to approach prom. I don't want to be a 50-something year old that still thinks their absence at prom affords them some small sliver of status.

And I certainly don't want to remember prom as the best night of my high school life. So I will go to prom, leave the planning to my friends and not worry about whether or not I'm having the best time ever.

How bad could a school dance, or even 'the school dance,' possibly be?



LENA NEWMAN

# BOYCOTT OF OLYMPICS IN ORDER



Graphic by Josh Davidson

## • China's unsavory connections to Darfur demand a global response

Last summer, I visited China with other members of Shaker's Asian Studies course and witnessed history in the unmaking.

Construction cranes are as omnipresent there as cameras are here. Sections of the Great Wall are being torn down and rebuilt for easier tourist access. All over Beijing, the government is bulldozing over ancient courtyards, evicting residents whose families have lived there for generations, and building skyscrapers in their place. China has been pouring obscene amounts of money - \$50 billion in Beijing alone - into preparations for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

The slogan for the 2008 Beijing Olympics is "one world, one dream." Hypocrisy, thy name is China.

Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, sits 5,211.5 air miles southwest of Beijing. There, too, skyscrapers and luxury hotels are sprouting from the arid ground like so many magic beans. Although the environment is quite different from that of Beijing, the source of Khartoum's development is the same - the Chinese government's piggy bank.

Sudan is the African nation where the government has been soaking the soil with blood of the people of Darfur since February of 2003 (considering only the present, ethnicity-fueled conflict). Nearly 400,000 people have been killed so far, and over 2.5 million have been "affected by the conflict." Victims under that category have experienced everything from internal displacement and forced emigration to starvation, imprisonment, rape, and murder. Children are made to fight one another to the death. Women are raped as they try to retrieve clean water for their families.

Why would China be investing in Sudan? The reason ought to be wearily familiar to most readers, considering the last several decades of American and global history: oil. The last available update put Sudan's production at 520,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and rising. China buys 71% of these barrels. This translated to a total profit of \$5.25 billion in 2006 for the Sudanese government - money that goes in large part to funding the militia carrying out the genocide.

As a member of the UN Security Council, China has the

ability to veto any proposed UN sanctions. It has done this already several times in the past, blocking measures proposed against Sudan. Now reports are coming out that suggest China has been providing the Sudanese government with weapons. In fact, the Associated Press published an article as early as May 2007 tying Chinese and Russian arms to the Darfur genocide.

Diplomacy has failed to change the Chinese government's policy of valuing economy over human rights. These Olympic games are a veritable World Fair - an exhibition of how far China has come. They are putting such tremendous effort into preparations because this is their opportunity to show off to the world and to cry out that they are ready to sit at the adult table. We ought treat them the same way one treats a horribly misbehaving child, and begrudge them the attention they so hungrily seek out.

To participate in the Olympics is to make the same mistake we did in 1936. That was the year the US played in the Nazi Germany Olympics. Although the victories by Jesse Owens were tremendously entertaining, our participation in the Nazi Olympics was a grave mistake on the whole. Aside from reigning in a huge profit for Nazi Germany, it gave Hitler a chance to hide from the international community the true extent of his evil, retarding other nations' reactions.

China and the US are in an economic Cold War. Our codependence in trade relations has prevented either nation from making a serious threat against the other. An Olympic boycott circumvents this complicated stalemate and makes an enormous political statement without risking much for the United States. The Olympics are nearly upon us. On the official Beijing Olympics website, one of five creepy humanoid cartoons holds a flag displaying the days remaining until the games. Every day, that number goes down and the death toll for the Darfur genocide rises. Act now. Join the movement that Steven Spielberg, Mia Farrow, a whole host of former Olympic athletes, several Congressmen, and numerous others have supported.

We are bearing witness to a human atrocity, and we must bring it to an end.



Over 1.8 million people have been displaced, over 230,000 of which have fled to Chad. The Janjaweed forces frequently raid refugee camps in Chad.

50% of the Darfur population consists of children.

Girls as young as eight are being raped and used as sex slaves.

Since the conflict began in 2003,

an estimated 350,000 have died, most due to starvation.

Sudan's military spending was close to \$600 million last year, nearly four times as much as in 1997.

The UN World Food Program has cut aid in half.

Prior to the aid cut, only 50% of those in need of food had been receiving it.

71% of Sudan's oil is bought by China. Sudan made over \$4.5 billion in oil revenues in 2006.

Compiled by Robert Abrams



## Group benefits high school, community

Like any exclusive group, the high school's Student Group on Race Relations is oft slandered by the 1500 students who either failed to attend the freshmen only tryout or who were not offered a position in the organization. While a certain amount of contempt should be expected from those outside of the organization, what amazes me is the large number of students who allow that contempt to convince them that SGORR is an all-together unproductive organization.

We've all heard the claims. From "SGORR does nothing for the high school" to "SGORR is racist," criticism of the district's largest student-run organization runs rampant. During my four years as a SGORR member, I've often faced the daunting task of defending SGORR's legitimacy to everyone from friends and teachers to community members and parents.

I don't mind defending SGORR. Actually, I'll happily discuss with you the organization to which I, and 19 other Core leaders, have devoted every Sunday night, as well as countless hours throughout the week. However, I am continually disappointed by the misperception that SGORR serves only the fourth and sixth grade students who are visited three times each year.

It is true that SGORR members do not directly visit high school classrooms, yet the belief that high school students remain unaware of the group's purpose and content is inaccurate. For starters, the 300-plus members of the organization participate in interactive activities as well as thought-provoking discussions centering on the hot-button issues of race, prejudice and diversity on a weekly basis. Even in the least productive of SGORR meetings, students are given the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation about issues that affect the student body each and every day. SGORR leaders facilitate, and prepare members to facilitate, discussion on

today's racial issues that can, and hopefully does, continue beyond the confines of a SGORR meeting.

By preparing members to facilitate, participate in and effectively complete meaningful discussion, SGORR gives back to the high school in a way that can be seen everywhere from the hallways to English classes. This said, critics must also confront the fact that SGORR members are behind many of the high school's race relation efforts. Whether it be by helping out at events such as the March 9 Concert for Ludlow or by annually leading the multi-high school Diversity Forum at the Cleveland City Club, SGORR has done more than its share for the SHHS community during the past 25 years.

While it is reasonable for the uninformed student not to see the effect of SGORR in the high school, it is inexcusable to claim the existence of institutionalized prejudice in the organization. Yes, it is true that determining which 60 of the often over 300 freshman applicants to admit SGORR employs the criteria of race and gender. However, the tactic is not only acceptable, but also necessary once you've examined the organization's goals. A group preaching diversity and tolerance would hold little authority if the message were delivered by a racially monolithic group.

In the same manner, few sixth grade boys would be receptive to a tolerance activity facilitated by a group comprised solely of high school girls. The responsibility to provide students with a group representative of the diversity the organization is teaching forces SGORR to a quota system. And though this system adds an additional level of exclusiveness to the organization, it is essential to preserving the purity and integrity of the message.

Twenty-five years removed from its creation, SGORR remains one of the high school's most effective and valuable resources. Those who continue to doubt the organization's validity need only open their ears to the dialogue facilitated due to the presence of SGORR.



**WESLEY LOWERY**

## SGORR needs student body participation

Contrary to the impressions made on the rest of the world by irresponsible French journalists and a certain Plain Dealer columnist, Shaker Heights is still a success in respect to civil rights.

This city, recognized as one of the best examples of Americans defying segregation and coexisting peacefully, began as a civil-rights social experiment in integration. Despite success, however, Shaker Heights remains a work in progress.

In 1983, a group of students concerned with the relationships between blacks and whites, formed a group designed to work with students to preserve the healthy relationships they had in elementary school but somehow lost in their transition to middle school.

The goal of that group, the Student Group On Race Relations, is to "promote good social relations among racially diverse children." But how do you define "good social relations"? Is it broadening our clichés or participating in activities that are considered "black" or "white"? Or is it simply coexisting with one another peacefully. Little argument would be made in saying we'd prefer the former; but at this point, we've only achieved the latter.

Blatant acts of racism have been banished to the history books. Yet whites are still more likely to associate with other whites, and blacks are still more likely to associate with blacks. That is not to say friendships between different races are unheard of - they are, in fact, a common occurrence we pride ourselves in. It shows how far we have come that few, if any of us, are ever ridiculed for acceptance or association with those of another race.

It may be unavoidable for us to turn a blind eye to the color of another's skin. Subtle prejudices, although rarely expressed, naturally lurk under the surface. If you don't believe this, why do we find a guilty pleasure in watching comedians exploit stereotypes (or go insane)? Why are there "white" or "black" tables in the cafeteria?

As much as our parents influence us, we are influenced by our surroundings even more. It may take another generation raised by tolerant, accepting parents who themselves were raised in the post-civil rights era. But it will also take effort from you and your peers to cement these bridges.

There is no doubt SGORR is an integral part of the effort to prevent race hatred. A long road lies behind race relations - but another lies ahead. SGORR can infuse tolerance into students, but can it bring us together? Instead of merely reinforcing our belief in equality and dispelling stereotypes, SGORR must look ahead and encourage us to build relations relevant today.

Learning that our differences only need be skin-deep is essential. Emphasis must be placed on encouraging students to befriend across race lines. It is critical children are unabashed to associate with one another. Genres of music or entertainment should not be considered "for whites" or "for blacks", but rather material that purposefully promotes virtual segregation or relies on racial tension to sell should be exposed for what it is.

Popular advocates for civil rights must also end their shameful affair with the media. SGORR may adjust their role accordingly, but the responsibility is on the students of Shaker Heights to improve race relations by improving themselves.



**EVAN WHEELER**



## HEY! SHAKER!

The staff of the Shakerite knows that one of the best parts of the paper is Heard in the Halls. However, when we don't receive any quotes from the student body, we can't put them in the paper! So, if you guys want to read the weird things your fellow students say, you have to listen up, write it down and drop it off in Room 231, or hand it to a Shakerite editor. (For a list of editors, check out page 2.) Heard in the Halls is in your hands!

Love, The Beat Editors

# The Beat

03.27.08

# MINDING THE GAPS

• Shaker students take a year off before college to relax and learn

BY DIANA JACK  
THE BEAT EDITOR

Instead of heading off to college, more textbooks and stress in hand, a number of students are opting to just take a year off, do something to change the world. And the best part is that high schools and colleges are now encouraging students to do so.

Taking a year off after high school and deferring college enrollment has been nicknamed "taking a gap year."

Guidance Department Chair Eileen Blattner said that while Shaker does not specifically encourage its students to take a gap year, the guidance department believes that it is a "perfect fit" for some.

Senior Meg O'Halloran is all set up to take her gap year, something she says she wants to do to prove to herself she's ready for the rest of her life.

"I look at college as 'Alright, I'm going to get out of my parents house, and I'm going to be dependent on another set of people,' my parents are still paying for things, and I have a meal plan...I really need to be completely independent, I need to be able to support myself, get a job, pay for rent," she said.

O'Halloran plans to spend her gap year as an intern with the Cleveland School of the Arts, a local organization emphasizing dance, theatre, musical and digital arts. She will help production directors and aid in the classroom. She also wants to lead a trip of members of her church to either South Africa or Tanzania, where she hopes to teach children in orphanages how to read and write.

Conversely, junior Sophia Bell-



NEPALI SCHOOL GIRLS perform rituals in traditional garb. Audrey Gyurgyik is spending her gap year amongst these and other Nepali people as part of her year off between high school and college. Check out the Kavre Project at [kavreproject.wordpress.com](http://kavreproject.wordpress.com), or join the "Kavre Project" Facebook group started by Celeste Duval ('07) to get involved.

## GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ENDORSES TRIP TO ISRAEL

I recently returned from a phenomenal trip to Israel sponsored by MASA, an organization sponsored by the Israeli government and The Jewish Agency. The purpose of the trip was to learn about many of the 150 opportunities for students, predominantly Jewish to study in Israel.

We spent the majority of our time learning about Gap or Foundations year programs designed for students interested in taking a year off before going to college in the U.S.

I found that the students were very connected to one another, and more caring about the world than they might have been without the experience. It clearly promotes social identity and connection with Israel. It provides an intellectual, international opportunity outside of one's comfort zone. This gives the students a chance to respond to their own intellectual curiosity. These programs have been life-changing experiences. I believe that it creates passion, independence and a stronger sense of self. Students are ready to go to college when they return and are more prepared for the rigor. Their maturity has increased exponentially.

There are programs tailored for each individual's desires. All students study

in-Warren said that while she considered taking a gap year, she currently leans against doing so. She planned on taking classes in Israel for a year before college, but has decided that it's not for her.

"I don't want to miss out on my freshman year of college," she said.

However, some schools, including Princeton University, show increased enthusiasm over the idea. Princeton is even creating a program to allow ten percent of admitted freshmen to go overseas to study and figure themselves out, free of tuition. The major theme surrounding gap years is that of allowing students to explore the world and themselves before being tied down again in college.

In a Feb. 19 New York Times article, Princeton president Shirley M. Tilghman said that a gap year allows for "cleansing the palate of high school, giving [students] a year to regroup."

Blattner agrees, "One definite advantage is maturing, gaining responsibility, experiencing opportunities they would never otherwise be able to do." Some of the most popular things to do during gap years include working or volunteering, traveling, taking classes in the arts or improving the hockey skills, she said.

A main concern for parents of gap year students is safety.

Hebrew, Zionism and Jewish history. Beyond that students can concentrate on volunteering, study anything from Middle East Studies to archeology. Students can live on a kibbutz or in any of the Israeli cities.

Some programs integrate the students into Israeli life immediately, others maintain a separation of the International students. Prior to this trip, I have never encouraged a Gap Year. I have since found that research supports programs that are goal oriented, organized opportunities for students.

I now support students take the time to grow more mature, independent and passionate about whatever is important to them. Most colleges are happy to defer a student who has a good plan in place for the year. Some prefer it. All of the programs I experienced in Israel, from the Young Judea, Nativ, Rimon and the International Programs at Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan, University of Haifa were exciting, incredible opportunities for our students.

Each student described his program as amazing. I truly understand why. Such passion!!!

I highly recommend that students research such opportunities at [www.masaisrael.org](http://www.masaisrael.org) or contact me at [blattner\\_e@shaker.org](mailto:blattner_e@shaker.org).

EILEEN BLATTNER

O'Halloran plans on living in inner-city Cleveland, but said that first she has to convince her otherwise supportive parents. Similarly, Bellin-Warren mentioned her parents' potential worries if she were to live in Israel, a current war-zone.

There are a number of private companies that specialize in finding programs for gap year students. For example, the Dynamy Program, which Blattner is familiar with, provides internships specifically for gap year students.

Despite enthusiasm for taking a year off, most people involved expect to attend college afterwards. Bellin-Warren said that even if she spent a year in Israel, not attending college is out of the question.

The process for obtaining permission to defer admission for a year is fairly simple. Once accepted to a college, the student must write to the Dean of Admissions asking to defer for a year, to which the answer is often yes.

O'Halloran will attend Macalester College, where she was accepted early decision. She is mandated by her early decision application to attend after her deferment, but she'll be ready.

"I'll be ready to hit the books and depend on my parents and a meal plan again," she said.

## Shaker grad educates in Nepali village

BY KELSEY DEFOREST  
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Audrey Gyurgyik ('07) deferred from Davidson College in North Carolina to spend a year as a volunteer teacher in Nepal. During her time there she created the Kavre Project, an organization to raise funds for the schools in the mountain village of Kavre.

"I wanted time away before college to reassess what was important to me, to live something completely different from Shaker Heights and see what I could learn from it," Gyurgyik said in an email interview.

"Just stepping out of one's own boundaries can give such a different, more open perspective of the world. I also completely fell in love with the idea of an adventure; going to live in Nepal... that sense of exploration, living a new culture absolutely fascinated me."

Gyurgyik looked into many third-world regions before stumbling on an appealing program in Nepal. She made plans to be a volunteer teacher during her year abroad.

"I wanted to really integrate myself into the culture here, live as the people do. Living with a family, working at the local school allows one to do that," Gyurgyik said. By teaching, she hoped to let Nepali students use their imaginations, since Nepali education relies on memorization.

Gyurgyik taught in various schools around Nepal, includ-

ing an orphanage and a school for students with disabilities. After beginning work in the mountain village Kavre, approximately a two-hour bus ride from Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, Gyurgyik learned that teachers lack basic supplies such as books and benches for students to sit on.

Inspired, Gyurgyik began the Kavre Project, a fund-raising organization for the schools in Kavre. "I have just recently finished making a website to promote the project. I am also selling T-shirts to raise awareness and funding for the project. Once I have enough money to get the project going... I'll negotiate prices and begin work."

Gyurgyik has fallen in love with her work in the village of Kavre. She is fascinated by the beauty of the Hindi festivals and has felt welcomed into each family. She even had the honor of naming the son of a Kavre villager and knows personally many of her students.

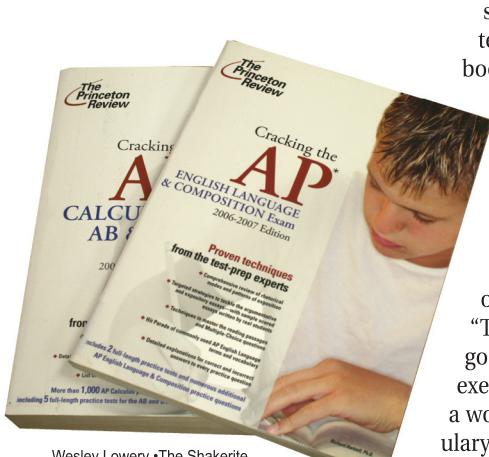
"It is a peaceful place, but people lack in opportunities for education- something I believe is absolutely crucial."

Gyurgyik is showing her gratitude to these people through the Kavre Project. "I wanted to give something lasting to the schools that I taught at, and both of these schools can barely function with what they have currently. Things we take utterly for granted- a place to sit, books- these kids don't have. For me, education is incredibly important and I want to encourage it as much as possible."

# HIGH COST OF HIGHER LEARNING

- The mounting cost of secondary education forces students to empty wallets or sacrifice quality

BY ADRIA KINNEY  
THE BEAT EDITOR



Wesley Lowery •The Shakerite

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT REVIEW** books are common items that many students buy in order to study for tests, final exams or Advanced Placement exams. The books can be purchased at nearly all bookstores and range in price from around \$10 to over \$30 at bordersstores.com. Subjects include every available AP Test subject, provided by Kaplan, The Princeton Review and the College Board.

**P**ublic school is often touted as free, but in reality books, calculators and test fees subtract hundreds of dollars from students' (and parents') wallets.

One instance of this is in language classes, which often require students to purchase workbooks from the school bookstore. "You do encounter kids who can't afford the workbooks, and you have to Xerox the pages for them," said Spanish teacher Norma Guice. "You make allowances as much as you can. You hate to see a youngster not do well because they can't afford the workbooks," Guice added. She also said that students have the option of getting many assignments online. "Textbook companies have done a good thing by putting most of their exercises online. Even if you don't have a workbook, you can access the vocabulary on the computer," Guice said. "We try to help even out the playing field."

Students enrolled in Honors and AP math classes encounter a similar expense when required to purchase graphing calculators, which can cost up to \$150.00. "The calculator is an integral part of the course of instruction; subsequently, all students must have a graphing calculator in AP math," said math department chair Gene Tournoux. "We do help students who cannot afford the calculators by keeping a supply of calculators on hand for loaning to students," Tournoux added.

AP exams are another pricey aspect of school. The exams are a required part of taking an AP course and will cost students \$84 per test this year. Guidance counselor David Peterjohn said that there are resources available for students who cannot afford the testing fees. "The College Board offers a discount for students that qualify," Peterjohn said. The school also has waivers available. "If a student demonstrates a need based on paperwork, there can be resources in the school to cover certain payments," Peterjohn said. He also said that the state is investigating funding for mandatory tests.

National History Day, a mandatory competition for

all students enrolled in Advanced Placement history classes, requires students to either create term papers, exhibit boards, documentaries, performances or websites. Shaker students tend to perform very well in the competition, but also spend hundreds of dollars on their projects.

"[NHD] can be done on the cheap," said Advanced Placement history teacher Dann Parker, who explained that students could avoid the expense by writing a term paper or creating a performance.

Advanced Placement history teacher Timothy Mitchell agreed with Parker. "If students are resourceful... they can create a highly competitive and successful project. Indeed, we've had successful projects very humbly made," Mitchell said.

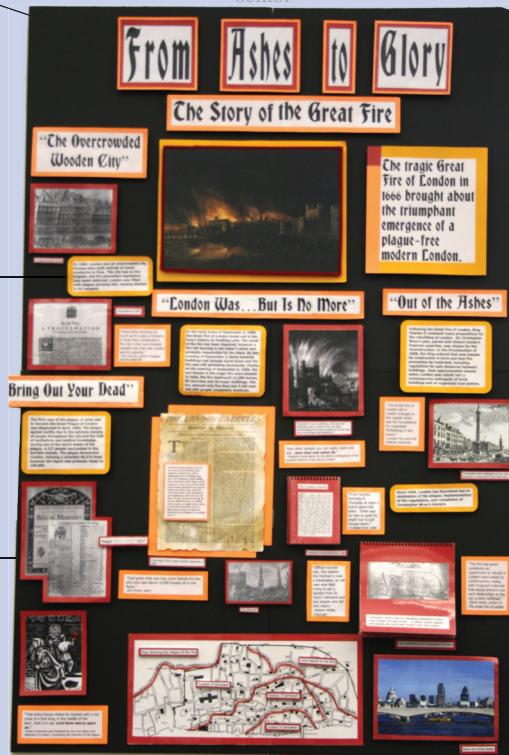
However, senior Eden Engel-Rebitzer, a nationally qualifying NHD participant, feels that money provides students a distinct advantage. "Every dollar you add to your project, the more competitive it becomes... there are always going to be the judges that like the glitz and glamour," Engel-Rebitzer said. Engel-Rebitzer's group spent hundreds of dollars on their exhibit. "We were on the lower end of spending... at nationals, kids were spending thousands on their projects," Engel-Rebitzer said. "It felt like a competition of wealth." Engel-Rebitzer added that her group did not progress as far the year earlier, when they spent significantly less on the project. "We got bashed for not being as fancy."

Overall, the district does a good job of providing for students and is sensitive to families' financial limita-

## CURRENT SENIORS' NATIONALLY QUALIFYING NATIONAL HISTORY DAY EXHIBIT SHOWS THE PRICE OF PERFECTION

Every dollar you add to your project, the more competitive it becomes.

Eden Engel-Rebitzer  
Senior



Wesley Lowery •The Shakerite

tions, said James Paces, executive director of curriculum.

"The guidance and counseling staff has discussed this issue at some length... there are some funds available by the school PTO, and the Shaker Schools Foundation can sometimes provide funds for worthy causes," Paces added.

## From volunteering to research, summer opportunities abound

- Instead of spending the entire summer by the pool, consider taking advantage of one of these alternatives

**1** Junior Brent Grossman-McKee spent his summer interning at the Cleveland Clinic. Grossman-McKee spent nearly three months studying biology and participating in activities such as researching proteins and working with hearts. "It was a valuable learning experience to work with medical research," Grossman-McKee said.



**Grossman-McKee**

**2** Carnegie Mellon University offers a seven-week summer program for rising juniors and seniors. Programs in architecture, art, design, drama, music and The National High School Game Academy are available. Students who participate take two college-level courses and receive college credit. Senior Max Chernin participated in the drama program last summer, and found it to be fantastic. "I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is serious about theatre," Chernin said. Program dates for 2008 are June 28 to Aug. 8, and range from \$5,775 to \$6,967. Completed applications must be postmarked by May 1. Visit [www.cmu/enrollment/pre-college](http://www.cmu/enrollment/pre-college) for more information.

**3** Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center in Chagrin Falls, Ohio provides a picturesque setting for a summer of volunteering. The organization offers horse riding instruction and therapy for individuals with disabilities. Student volunteers are always welcome and can assist in a variety of activities, such as grooming horses, helping to guide horses during therapy sessions and working with camping students. Visit [www.fieldstonefarm.trc](http://www.fieldstonefarm.trc) for more information.

**4** Interlochen Center for the Arts provides programs for students in the areas of creative writing, dance, motion picture arts, music, theatre and visual arts. Located in Interlochen, Michigan, the programs range from one to six weeks in length and range from \$815 to \$6,380. A limited amount of financial aid is available, and there is an application fee of \$45 online and \$60 by mail. Junior Cecilia Orazi spent four weeks playing cello at Interlochen two years ago. "I really liked the experience and making lasting friendships," Orazi said. Visit [www.interlochen.org](http://www.interlochen.org) for more information.



**5** Ohio Board of Regents Summer Foreign Language Academy offers language immersion programs at Kent State University, University of Akron, Oberlin College and Bowling Green State University. The four-week program offers Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Hindi over the summer and nine Saturdays during the academic school year. The program is free and provides students with books and the use of a laptop computer for the duration of the program. Senior Kirsten Gassman participated in the program at Kent State University. "I think I want to do Arabic in college, and this program just really opened it up for me," Gassman said. Applications are due April 15. Visit [www.flas.mcls.kent.edu](http://www.flas.mcls.kent.edu) for more information.

Compiled by Adria Kinney

## Starbucks irritates, alienates coffee purist

**I** have a bone to pick with Starbucks. It's nothing to do with the taste (too much sugar to cover the taste of burned beans, in case you were wondering) and it's not that I never buy drinks there (when I'm in a rush or when I get a gift card), I just can't warm up to Starbucks' private language and Starbucks personnel can't seem to warm up to me.



KELSEY  
DEFOREST

I walk in for a simple coffee and leave feeling like I should have brought a translator.

Not only am I blown away by the complexity of other customers' orders, but the baristas also leave me feeling uninformed and behind the times.

For example, I always use real size names for my drinks. I guess it is old school, but small, medium and large have always served me well in the past. They actually describe what I want out of my order.

When I order a medium at a Starbucks, I notice that the cashier always translates for the barista. It makes you wonder how they order fast food—after all who ever heard of a grande French fries.

Then there is the latest addition of "skinny" as an option for your drinks. Skinny drinks are made with sugar-free syrup, non-fat milk and foam instead of whipped cream.

I find it baffling that my drink can be tall, skinny and extra hot. I feel more like I am describing a date than a beverage.

I am also amazed they actually ask me if I want a skinny latte after I have ordered two doughnuts for myself. Did I really look like I wanted anything in my order to be skinny?

Really though, if you want to cut back on calories, why not just go for real coffee instead of some frilly, frothy drink?

Customer relations is another reason that Starbucks is not my caffeine fix of choice. Maybe I am spoiled by the personal attention and interest provided by independent or local coffee shops, because I always feel like Starbucks comes up short. Starbucks personnel make me feel rushed and like an intrusion into the exclusive Starbucks club.

Luckily, the Starbucks Corporation is making an effort to improve their connections with customers.

On Feb. 26, all U.S. Starbucks closed early to re-train their employees in making their customers feel more welcome as well as making better quality espresso.

"Tonight is about celebrating who we are and reenergizing our focus on and commitment to those things that have made us the world's leading roaster and retailer of specialty coffee," said chairman, CEO and president Howard Schultz in a press release on the Starbucks website.

"We are incredibly proud of what we have built, but as tonight clearly demonstrates, we are reaffirming our coffee leadership, and neither we nor our customers will settle for the status quo."

More training will continue through the month of March, both in the U.S. and in the other 43 countries with franchises.

With any luck, this training will bring more warmth to Starbucks, so a last resort won't be half bad, even if you need to bring a translator.

## SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PRACTICES NUGGETING TREND ON HER STUDENTS

VICTORIA FYDRYCH  
STAFF REPORTER

**P**ranking students used to mean drawing on their faces as they snoozed through another lecture in AP English.

Now, students have a very different idea. Nuggeting, a growing trend among Shaker students, is the nickname for the process of removing a backpack's contents, flipping it inside out and putting the contents back inside.

Although pranks and practical jokes are expected from students, one teacher is joining the fun. Carol Lamalfa, who substitutes for classes three or four times a week, does a few of her own nuggets.

Lamalfa first learned of nuggeting when it was explained to her by some students, who learned it from a transfer student.

"They did it while I was in the classroom and I thought it was hysterical," said Lamalfa. Soon after, she tried it herself "one... or two or three" times.

Although students are familiar with what is becoming a popularized prank, according to Lamalfa, the administration is out of the loop.

"I don't even think they know about nuggets," Lamalfa said.

Students rarely suspect Lamalfa. "Their first reaction was that it was a classmate. They're usually surprised [it was me]," Lamalfa said.

Senior Christopher Mawhorter was one of Lamalfa's victims during his third period math class.

"I fell asleep during math class while we were supposed to be doing homework and she came over and got me," said

### NUGGETING- (n)

1. The act of removing the contents of someone else's backpack, turning the backpack inside-out, placing the shoulder straps inside, replacing all the contents inside the backpack, and zipping it back up. The subsequent shape of the backpack resembles a nugget. See *backpack flipping, nugging, or skinning*. 2. Newest prank practiced by teachers and students alike during particularly boring classes at Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

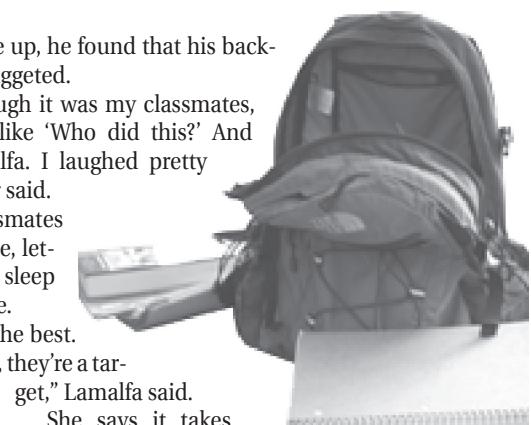
Mawhorter.

When he woke up, he found that his backpack had been nuggeted.

"At first, I thought it was my classmates, and then I was like 'Who did this?' And it was Ms. Lamalfa. I laughed pretty hard," Mawhorter said.

His classmates played accomplice, letting Mawhorter sleep as long as possible.

"Sleepers are the best. If they're sleeping, they're a target," Lamalfa said.



Diana Jack • The Shakerite

She says it takes her a few minutes to nugget a regular backpack, however, she said, it depends.

"If it has the stiff back, it's much more difficult."

Although she enjoys the harmless prank, Lamalfa does not nugget in every class.

"Sometimes, I don't do it for days; [it also] depends on the classes and if they have a sense of humor."

Lamalfa is not the only one with a nuggeting habit.

Students also enjoy nuggeting their peers' backpacks. Junior Joseph Pittman said, "[I was] mad the first time [I was nuggeted], and the second time I laughed."

Fellow junior Sabatino Verlezza agreed. "I've never been nuggeted, but I've viewed [it]. I think it's kind of funny."

While some become frustrated when nuggeted, others take it nonchalantly. "I think that people look for a reaction," said freshman Allyson Yoder.

Interviewed students said that they would definitely consider nuggeting another student or friend.

So, Shaker: keep your friends close and your backpacks closer.



Diana Jack • The Shakerite

## Starbucks: Decoded and Delicious

• Everyone knows that Starbucks has unpronounceable, confusing language that no one understands. Here, we've broken it down into something a little closer to small, large, coffee, and chocolate.



Diana Jack • The Shakerite

**ESPRESSO**- brewed by forcing very hot, but not boiling, water under high pressure through coffee that has been ground fine. An espresso shot is the building block for most beverages at Starbucks.

**CAFFÈ AMERICANO**- espresso combined with hot water for the European alternative to American-style coffee.

**CAPPUCCINO**- espresso in a small amount of steamed milk with a layer of foam. With less milk than a latte, the cappuccino offers a stronger espresso flavor.

**CAFFÈ MOCHA**- espresso combined with bittersweet mocha syrup and steamed milk; topped with whipped cream.

**WHITE CHOCOLATE MOCHA**- a variation of the classic mocha. Espresso with, white chocolate syrup and topped with whipped cream.

**SKINNY MOCHA**- espresso combined with bittersweet mocha syrup and steamed, non-fat milk.

**CAFFÈ LATTE**- espresso in steamed milk lightly topped with foam.

**SKINNY LATTE**- espresso, steamed milk, and one of Starbucks' sugar-free flavored syrups (vanilla, hazelnut, caramel, cinnamon dolce or new mocha) topped with foam.

**VANILLA LATTE**- espresso in steamed milk combined with vanilla syrup and topped with foam.

**CARAMEL MACCHIATO**- a mix of vanilla syrup and steamed milk with intense espresso; topped with foam and caramel sauce.

## QDOBA CONTRIBUTES TO SHAKER'S AFTER-PROM

Trying to decide about dinner, and have your options narrowed down to Chipotle or Qdoba? Pick up a flyer from the senior lounge and head to Qdoba to support the Class of 2008's After-Prom activities fund. For the month of April, Qdoba Mexican Grill on Van Aken Blvd. will donate \$1.50 of every entree and drink purchased by a high school student to go towards prizes, decorations and food for After-Prom. Organized by the Parent Teacher Organization, the offer ends on March 31st. Kirsten Gassman, Class of 2008 student council president, said, "The more Qdoba you buy, the nicer your After-Prom will be."



Photo Illustration by Simone Duval

## STUDENTS FIND COMFORT IN FAST FOOD REFUGE

BY SIMONE DUVAL  
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

**D**escribed by some as, "Shaker's waiting room," and by others as "just a place to go and eat," Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers on Warrensville Road offers both cheap fast food and a meeting place for Shaker students.

As the place to be after school dances, hockey games and even on the weekends when there's nothing to do, Wendy's attracts high school students looking for a quick bite to eat. Manager Martina Die said that, by her estimates, Wendy's serves on average 100 Shaker students every day.

"Shaker students probably make up half of our customers," said Die.

Not surprisingly, students interviewed said they usually buy Wendy's food anywhere from once a week to once a day. For many, the restaurant is the go-to-place after school for an inexpensive tasty snack or a stop on the way home right before curfew rolls around.

"I'll go there, like, after a party on Saturday, when I have to be home soon. It's really convenient because it's near everyone else's house, it's fast food, and it's cheap," said junior Amadou Gueye.

At Wendy's, customers can choose whether to order inside and sit down in the dining room or roll through the drive-thru and pick up their food at the window. Many students use the drive-thru, and instead of heading inside, stop and eat in the parking lot.

"I've eaten in the parking lot before because it's too crowded inside, and sometimes you just want to sit and eat in your car," said freshman Alexis Payne.

At peak usage, i.e. after the University School vs. Shaker hockey games every year,



**Martina  
Die**

the parking lot may be packed with as many as twenty to thirty cars, with students blasting music and leaning out their windows, shouting to communicate the next activity of the night.

"I go there before we find out what's hopping for the night," said senior Greg Persons. "Wendy's is like Shaker's waiting room."

Paige Duffy, a junior at Solon High School, said that in contrast to Shaker's fast food hangout, Solon students can be found at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar after most football games, swim meets and school-related events.

"It's close to the football stadium, and you can get good food and hang out with friends," said Duffy. "You can walk around [in the restaurant] and see people. You probably can't get that much space in a fast food restaurant."

And even though Shaker's Wendy's does offer a dining room for sit down meals, many students still choose to utilize the aforementioned drive-thru. However, many claim that Wendy's also provides a relatively overlooked location for students to buy food without anyone, the police in particular, noticing any strange or illegal behavior.

Though the management claims they have never had any problems with intoxicated or rowdy students, some say that Wendy's is so popular with students because it is the only fast food restaurant in Shaker with a drive-thru window.

"A lot of kids want to get food after dances, but they don't want to get noticed or seen so they stay inside their cars. Because after the dances, most people drink, get hungry and want food, but don't want to get noticed," said sophomore Laetitia Borione.

Persons said that he's seen the police at Wendy's, but that, "they've strolled by a couple of times but they were probably looking for food for themselves."

When asked whether he'd witnessed any crazy activities, such as arrests, students passing out or even getting thrown out of Wendy's, Persons replied, "No, but people do get heartburn from the Baconators."

##  
... people do get  
heartburn from the  
Baconators.  
##

Greg Persons  
Senior

##  
Wendy's is really  
convenient. It's  
fast food, and it's  
cheap.  
##

Amadou Gueye  
Junior

##  
I've eaten in the  
parking lot before,  
because it's too  
crowded inside.  
##

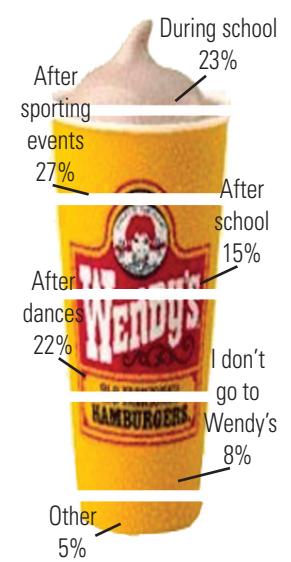
Alexis Payne  
Freshman

WENDY'S OLD FASHIONED Hamburgers on Warrensville Road is a popular hangout for Shaker students. The staff reports that most students come in between the hours of 12:30 and 1:30. "Students mostly go through the drive-thru, or order to-go," said Martina Die, General Manager.

### HOW OFTEN DO YOU GOTO WENDY'S?



### WHEN DO YOU GOTO WENDY'S?



Scientific telephone polls of 100 Shaker students, margin of error +/- 10.0 percent.

Infographic by John Fletcher  
Compiled by Simone Duval


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[Upload](#)
**"FAT"**

**1.**

This is a stop animation film that makes the ordinary task of making a sandwich into a truly captivating event. Walking condiments scurry about the screen, set to a techno score that gives the jars life and personality without speech. The appeal of the film appeals to a child like imagination within everyone. Though simple in concept, the film is intriguing and entertaining; thus, making it a favorite of the internet masses.


[Share](#)
[Favorite](#)
[Flag](#)

Rate: Ratings have been disabled.

Views: 89,750,739

## YouTube Fun Facts

- Everyone's humiliating moments are now a little less private - including celebrities. After singer Faith Hill didn't win "Female Vocalist of the Year" at the Country Music Association Awards in 2006, a clip of her mouthing the word "What?" in response to her loss was uploaded. Since then, it has been viewed 10 million times. (People.com)
- One YouTube video that created a stir was that of a Saudi Arabian woman driving. In honor of International Women's Day, observed March 8, Wajeha al-Huwaider posted a video of herself on YouTube driving a car - a forbidden action in Saudi Arabia. Al-Huwaider has also created a petition, hoping to change the current driving ban. (Washington Post)
- YouTube has also changed the field of crime punishment. Four students in Ossining, New York beat another student, one of the attackers filmed the assault on his cell phone. The video was posted on YouTube, causing police to use it as evidence to charge the four students with first-degree gang assault. The assault was the second one in the area that resulted from a YouTube video. (The New York Times)

Compiled by Adria Kinney

**top 5**
**From: Shakerite**  
Joined: 1 year ago  
Videos: 90

## Top 5 YouTube Videos From Shaker

[More From: Shakerite](#)

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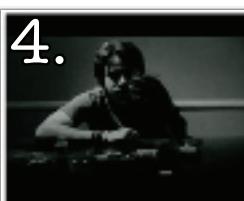

#### "SHAKER MARCHING BAND BACK"

"Seven Nation Army" performed by Shaker Heights High School marching band is a fan favorite on YouTube. The video shows "The Pride of Shaker Heights" rocking neighboring Mayfield football stadium, the outcome of the game may not have gone our way on the gridiron, but during half time the raider reigned supreme. Shaker Band members are now video stars via YouTube with close to 1000 views. Through the magic of Internet video, the Shaker Band can now be internationally known.



#### "SCARY ISN'T IT?"

"Scary isn't it?" is a one-man production sci-fi film in which Kurt Tacastacas depicts how a normal day at SHHS can be drastically changed by a vending machine with a vendetta against humanity. With a school in a frenzy and the imminent danger rising, a hero appears to save the day. To say the least the film leaves both on the edge of your seat in terror and at the same moment doubled over on the floor in laughter. The digitally animated vending machine replaces traditional actors, following the technology trend of YouTube.



#### "ONE OF THOSE DAYS"

This film by Harold Erkins is a retrospective look at a tragedy. The opening scene depicts a man distraught and almost in a daze. After a fight with his apparent love interest, the young man kills his girlfriend and her lover in a furious trance. The result is a man confused and disappointed with his actions. Constant flashback moments express the presence through the information of the past. The film appears in black and white, but it expresses itself through a strong emotional appeal. The director makes it easy to connect with the main character on a personal level no matter age, color or creed.



#### "SHANGHAI BREAKDANCING"

Showing a Shaker breakdancer in his free form of expression "Shanghai Breakdancing" is international in origin. With no real director or producer, this is not a traditional theatrical film at all. The clip itself is only the rhythmic movement of a Shaker student overseas. The movie is actually a home video turned cyber gold by the magic of Internet broadcasting. A moment of personal indulgent, a moment that would have been easily forgotten is now immortalized through the world wide web. This film shows the narrowing difference between amateur video and professional film.

## Popular online video site gives home to filmmakers and audiences

**BY COLIN JACKSON**  
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

"I was addicted after the first hour," said Kurt Tacustacas, '07, regarding his YouTube infatuation.

YouTube, an Internet site that facilitates peer-to-peer video sharing, was launched Feb. 15, 2005. Since then, it has become a forum for aspiring filmmakers and net-surfers alike, allowing them to post, view and comment on other people's videos, as well as upload videos of their own.

For the average net surfer, YouTube is a vast playground for boundless creativity. "You can watch anything on there," said Myron Nelson, '07.

Nelson listed videos such as the highly visited "Charlie Bit Me" video that depicts two toddlers after one decided the other was a chew toy. "Videos give people something to talk about," said Nelson. The infinite


**MERCER**

pop culture appeal of the site makes YouTube the thing to converse over at the water cooler.

In 2007, Tacustacas, or Kurtava as the online world calls him, produced "Scary isn't it?" in cooperation with his graphics course. The live action/animation account of a normal day at SHHS altered by the vending machine robot. The same video boasts just under 500 views. "YouTube allows everyone to be a professional," says Tacustacas.

Film teacher Andrew Glasier recalls a time when making film was an expensive process.

"Now all you need is a \$300 digital camera," said Glasier, "Anyone can be a filmmaker now-a-days."

He added that sites such as YouTube make it much easier for student filmmakers to direct and distribute their work. Senior Harold Erkins is another student taking advantage of YouTube. Since joining the site in May 2006, Erkins, known as CashMoo on YouTube, has uploaded five films.

Natalie Mercer's first crack at internet directing was a small stop animation film. Today the film is the most viewed of any Shaker student with over 1000 views. Mercer, who considers cinematography no more than a hobby, has made a name for herself with a series of stop animation films featuring walking, clay armed canned goods.

The website is now used as a launch pad into the "real" entertainment industry. Popular spoof music videos like, "Shoes," features a restless teenage girl and her over powering shoe addiction. The creator, Liyam Kyle Sullivan, entered stardom as a professional music producer after an appearance in "Shoes" in full drag.

The appeal of YouTube has reached much further than the audience of people in need of true film criticism and into the realm of mass appreciation.

If everyone can find something and have a stake in it, maybe the name should be changed from the classic YouTube to what it really is: OurTube.

## Film festival looks into future of Cleveland arts

**M**y friends looked at me like I had gone insane.

"What the hell do you think you're doing walking outside? It's like Moscow out there."

It was like Moscow indeed. The snow was piled so high on the sidewalks that I had to walk in the middle of Cedar Road.

Still, the arctic conditions Cleveland faced on the weekend of March 8 could not hold me back from the Cleveland International Film Festival.

This yearly event is such an incredible aspect of the Cleveland arts scene that there was no way I was going to stay home. So I trudged through the snow, waited for the Rapid and headed downtown.

Much to my surprise I was not the only individual who made this heroic journey for the sake of cinema.

Tower City's movie theater was packed with hipster film fanatics, each seeming to be in a state of euphoria over the amount of independent cinema that had come to Northeast Ohio. (It's really funny to see how the regulars at Tower City react to the invasion of film fiends in their midst).

From moment one, the festival is entirely Cleveland community. All the volunteers are people from the city. The soundtrack for the festival's trailer is performed by one of Cleveland's best bands, The Twilight. And as soon as you exit the theater you get a massive view of the factories downtown.

The film festival represents the city's potential if it commits its resources to the arts. For ten days, the Cleveland Film Society brings in the best of independent film.

This year there are 130 full-length films and 160 shorts from more than 50 countries, and 52,753 people attended the festival last year. It is a truly impressive feat.

The films I saw were phenomenal. The highlights were a documentary about competitive jump rope and an Israeli film about a group of elderly people who must defend their agricultural community. A documentary about one-man bands, a tragic black and white Icelandic movie about a broken family and an incredible film about climate change that made me want to become vegan and give up all motorized vehicles, also impressed me.

While the films I saw were great – much better than any of the garbage Hollywood has spat out in the past year – I felt that this year I gained something more from the festival.

What I saw amidst the huddled masses of people who trekked through the blizzard to downtown (getting suburbanites downtown is a feat in itself), was a city that is really committed to the arts.

For years Cleveland has been attacked as the "mistake by the lake;" a metropolitan area with nothing to do, nobody to meet and nowhere to go. The Film Festival clearly discredits this notion.

What the leaders of this city must see in the Film Festival is that our community is one that cares for the arts.

We should get the individuals who run the Film Festival together and put them on an advisory board for arts in the city. What they have done can, and needs to be, achieved on a large scale for the entire city.

Our local government must act so that Cleveland can continue to grow and make itself better for the future.

If we invest in art, the people will come.



**JOSH DAVIDSON**



Su Dong • The Shakerite

AN ATTENDEE WATCHES an informational video at 'Chocolate: the Exhibit.' The exhibit takes visitors through the production and historical importance of chocolate.

## BEST DAYS AND TIMES TO ATTEND CHOCOLATE: THE EXHIBIT AT THE SCIENCE CENTER

### March 30 Cleveland Brownies

Enjoy a selection of chocolate brownies prepared by members of Cleveland Independents, an association of locally owned and operated restaurants. 1-3 p.m. \$3 per taste.

Compiled by Kelsey DeForest  
Information from Glsc.org

### April 19 Doggone Good Chocolate

Bring your Chocolate Labrador to Great Lakes Science Center for a group photo. Donations will be collected for Cleveland Animal Protective League. Guests who make a \$10 donation will receive free dog treats and two complimentary tickets to Chocolate: The Exhibition.

### 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Daily Chocolate Bar

Great Lakes Science Center staff lead activities, such as experiments with cacao beans and the formation of small amounts of chocolate. The activities promise to tantalize the senses and awaken the appetite.

## Sankofa rocks the house, celebrates Black history



Su Dong • The Shakerite

THE SANKOFA PERFORMANCE, "Reasons to Celebrate," presents a scene resembling the high school cafeteria and its many cliques. Junior Rachyl Wright, who worked as an actress and dancer, said, "It was meant to demonstrate the different groups coming together. It was kind of inspired by Mix It Up Day." Sankofa annually works to teach students and staff about different facets of African-American history and also to promote an idea of unity and diversity.

## TASTY TOPIC FALLS FLAT FOR TEENS

• 'Chocolate: the Exhibition' showing at the Great Lakes Science Center better suits a young audience

BY JULIA CELESTE  
STAFF REPORTER

Upon entering the magical world of chocolate at the Great Lakes Science Center, a person travels back to ancient societies, explores chocolate's position in 19th century Europe and views the role this sweet substance plays today.

While the exhibit was educational and fun (and I especially enjoyed how it ended in a chocolate store), I felt it was intended for a 7 or 8 year old.

The majority of activities are aimed at younger kids, and, while I would suggest the exhibit as a fun babysitting activity, it is not trip you might take with a group of your peers.

The chocolate exhibit, which opened Feb. 9 and will run until May 4, has a \$10.50 entrance fee for youth and \$12.50 for adults. I found this fee excessive for the quality of the exhibit that I experienced.

Unlike other exhibits, the information in the chocolate exhibit is not presented as a list of boring facts, but rather a series of engaging activities for children.

You begin in the tropical rainforest, enhanced by the sound of simulated bird chirps, and are confronted by a large replica of a cacao tree. There is a plastic recreation of a cacao seed in which chocolate is found.

While this may be fun for young children, who have yet to learn about the ecosystem, anyone who passed 5th grade would find it unnecessary.

Continuing on, you encounter the Mayan culture, where chocolate was grown in gardens and used in both royal and religious ceremonies.

In the next room, the exhibit examines Aztec culture, where chocolate was used as a form of money and in necklaces to indicate wealth. Following the Aztec defeat at Spanish hands, chocolate was transported to Europe where it became a delicacy.

By the 1930s there were 40,000 different kinds of chocolate and during World War II all the chocolate was sent to the military, a fact I found particularly interesting.

The exhibit ends with videos, games and questions about current annual chocolate production. Perhaps the highlight at the end is a demonstration by a "chocolate maker" which results in a free sample.

While it was interesting to learn about the origins of chocolate, I didn't enjoy the accompanying games and gimmicks or the steep entrance fee. Some of the information was presented in a fun way, but I would suggest leaving the exhibit to the kids and experiencing chocolate first hand at home.

## THE ARMY ADVANTAGE FUND. BECAUSE SOLDIERS DESERVE MORE.

Now the Army gives you more choices for your future. Earn up to \$40,000 to start the business of your dreams or buy the home you always wanted. Log onto [goarmy.com/aaf](http://goarmy.com/aaf) to learn more about the Army Advantage Fund.



ARMY STRONG.



# Winbush comes home, flying high as a RedHawk

BY TEDDY CAHILL  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**N**ick Winbush had a great seat for Miami University's magical run to the NCAA tournament last season. This season, Miami didn't win the Mid-American Conference tournament, but the Shaker graduate had an ever better spot with the team.

Winbush, leading scorer for Shaker last year and helping them to a Lake Erie League championship, committed to play for the RedHawks in November of his senior year. After committing, he was a guest of the team during the tournament at Quicken Loans Arena, but this year, he played significant minutes during Miami's three MAC tournament games.

For Winbush these games were the first back in Cleveland since the Raiders lost in the sectional final last year.

"I came to the tournament last year and I imagined how it would be out there," Winbush said. "There was no better feeling for me."

The 6-6 small forward saw his first action of the MAC tournament during Miami's opening round 69-68 win over Buffalo. Winbush saw four minutes of action, though he failed to score a point and grabbed only one rebound in that time. He wasn't alone, however, as Miami failed to have a single point scored from their bench players. Led by Michael Bramos and Tim Pollitz, combined to score 53 points, the RedHawks advanced to play archrival Ohio University in the quarterfinals for the third year in a row.

It was in this game that Winbush would really break out in his first MAC tournament. Against OU, Winbush

played 16 minutes and tied a career high with 10 points. All 10 of the forward's points came in the first half when he played only eight minutes. Winbush went 4-4 from the field including 2-2 from behind the arc. During the half, he only missed one shot, a free throw during an and-one opportunity. Though he cooled off considerably during the second half, Winbush grabbed four rebounds during the game and fifth seeded Miami advanced to the semifinals upsetting the fourth seeded Bobcats 74-61.

"I got in there and I got a quick four points. A lot of basketball is getting into a rhythm and getting comfortable," Winbush said. "I guess I just got into a rhythm. I got those two baskets and that lob got me comfortable."

Miami then advanced to the semifinals to play the regular season MAC champion Kent State. The RedHawks fell 49-47 to the eventual tournament champion and ninth seed in the NCAA tournament. Winbush had only two points and one rebound, but played significant minutes after his strong outing the previous night. But for the Shaker native, the games meant more than just the opportunity to play for a MAC tournament title. It was the realization of a dream to play in the Cavs' home arena.

"I didn't even know if I was going to play basketball in college. I first started realizing that my junior year in high school," Winbush said. "Last year watching them play here and make this tournament, I was real motivated to come play with them. I loved it."

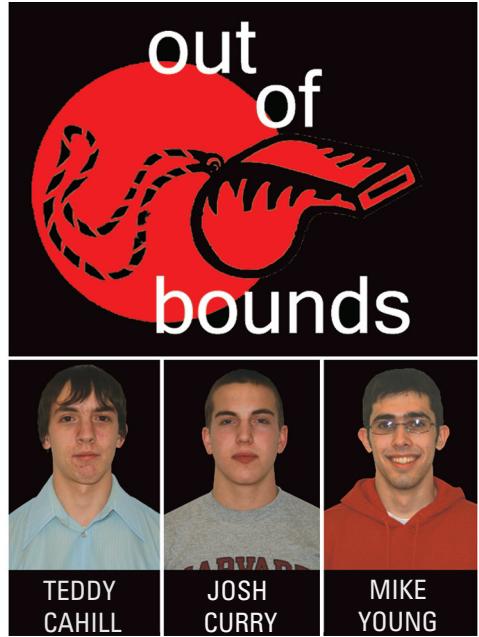
Miami's season didn't end with their MAC tournament loss. The team was selected to play in the newly created College Basketball Invitational. The RedHawks advanced to a postseason invitational for the fourth year in a row and played at Tulsa in their opening round match up. The team fell 61-45 to the Golden Hurricane to end their season.



Courtesy of Nick Winbush

NICK WINBUSH ('07) LEAPS towards the basket March 3 against archrival Ohio University.

## MEYER DESERVES RECOGNITION, MLB PREVIEW



### SAVAGE WHEELS-AND-DEALS

Browns General Manager **Phil Savage** is clearly not complacent after the team's best season since 1994. After re-signing quarterback **Derek Anderson** to a three-year deal, Savage sought to solidify the defensive line, which was one of the worst in the league for a couple years running. This comes after a year in which Savage's brilliant moves improved the formerly mediocre offensive line.

Behind monster nose tackle **Shaun Rogers**, a two-time Pro Browler, and scrappy defensive end **Corey Williams**, the Browns have a solid defensive line that will allow linebackers **Kamerion Wimbley** and **D'Qwell Jackson** to roam free. The depth in the secondary may be thin but, really, how could it get much worse than last year when they gave up the most passing touchdowns of any team? Boasting one of the NFL's best offenses, the Browns are poised rise to the top of the AFC North. The Browns moves are most likely done as the team lacks a first day draft choice.



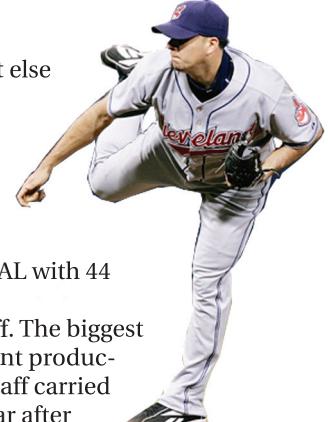
Phil Savage

**I**t should have been an easy decision for the Lake Erie League coaches in choosing this season's MVP. After Mentor beat Cleveland Heights to win the league outright, small forward **Joey Meyer** should have been named MVP. Instead the award went to Shaker's **Anthony Wells**. While the Raiders' point guard had a strong season, it wasn't MVP caliber. Though Meyer averaged 21 points per game this season, less than Wells, he led the Cardinals to the regional semifinals and the league title. But don't feel too bad for Meyer as he garnered a first team all-Ohio selection, while Wells was named honorable mention.

### INDIANS SEASON PREVIEW

Yes, the end to the 2007 season left a bitter taste in our mouths, but what else is new in Cleveland? Armed with one of the best pitching staffs in baseball, the Indians are ready to make another run at the World Series. Cy Young award winner **C.C. Sabathia** returns (for at least one more year) alongside the hard-throwing, sinker-baller **Fausto Carmona**, who form the best one-two punch in the AL. The league's best bullpen is anchored by **Rafael Betancourt**, the best set-up man in the majors, and wicked slider-wielding **Rafael Perez**. The Indians also feature closer **Joe Borowski** who led the AL with 44 saves last season.

Everyone in the Indians organization has confidence in the pitching staff. The biggest question mark on the team, though, is whether or not they can get consistent production from the offense. Too many times last year it limped along while the staff carried the team. Designated hitter **Travis Hafner** needs to have a bounce-back year after looking clueless at the plate for the entirety of last season. No question, Indians fever is back in Cleveland, even if they might punch us in the gut again.



RAFAEL BETANCOURT FINISHES his slow wind-up.

### MLB SEASON PREDICTIONS

Here are our predictions for 2008, the 100th anniversary of the Chicago Cubs' last championship:

#### Teddy Cahill :

AL East:



NL East:



#### Mike Young:

AL East:



NL East:



AL Central:



NL Central:



AL Central:



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AL West:



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# PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES; IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME

## • Americans put down one billion dollars on NCAA Tournament

BY MIKE YOUNG  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**A**wave of excitement over the NCAA men's basketball tournament once again swept through the nation this month and has certainly touched Shaker Heights High School already.

The American sports betting extravaganza known as "March Madness" garners an estimated \$3.5 billion in wagers nationwide, with an estimated three percent handled by legal sports books such as in Las Vegas. As for the younger age groups, according to a study by Louisiana State University, out of 12,000 adolescents, 45 percent bet on sports teams.

Of course, it's not exclusive to teenagers. A study done by a New

York outplacement firm "Challenger, Gray & Christmas" estimated that employers lose about \$101 million in productivity for every 10 minutes their employees spend on their "March Madness" brackets.

If that doesn't stop the endless employer-sponsored tournament pools across the country, then neither will the fact that they are illegal in 46 states. Sports betting is legal in Nevada and Oregon while both Montana and Vermont have limited gambling exceptions that allow for NCAA tournament pools to take place.

It's unlikely, though, for the FBI to investigate the millions of people who dole out, say, \$10 on UCLA winning the tournament. Unless that money is exchanged online, which is illegal due to the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, few should expect to be federally prosecuted.

With all those legalities said, The Shakerite presents its 2008 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament bracket and team breakdowns, completed by Teddy Cahill, Josh Curry and Mike Young.

### WHAT IS SHAKER'S POLICY ON GAMBLING?

According to the high school's "Policies and Procedures of Behavior and Discipline Governing Students' Rights and Responsibilities" handbook:

"A student shall not engage in, possess or promote games of chance, place a bet, or risk anything of value on school grounds, on school-provided transportation, at school-sponsored or related school functions off school grounds, or any other time the student is subject to school authority."

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson hopes that teachers will follow these guidelines in relation to NCAA men's basketball tournament brackets. "We would hope that all teachers make sure that gambling does not go on in the building and assist in monitoring those types of activities," he said.

## • In-depth analysis of our Elite Eight

### REGIONAL FINALISTS

#### EAST 3 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

The Louisville Cardinals really started to click once forward David Padgett came back from an injury at the start of Big East conference play. His inside presence is not only important on offense (he averaged a team high of 11.7 points per game) but his 6'11" frame is also important in the Cardinals' excellent pressure defense scheme.

We project that Louisville loses to Tar Heels in the Charlotte regional final.

#### MIDWEST 1 KANSAS JAYHAWKS

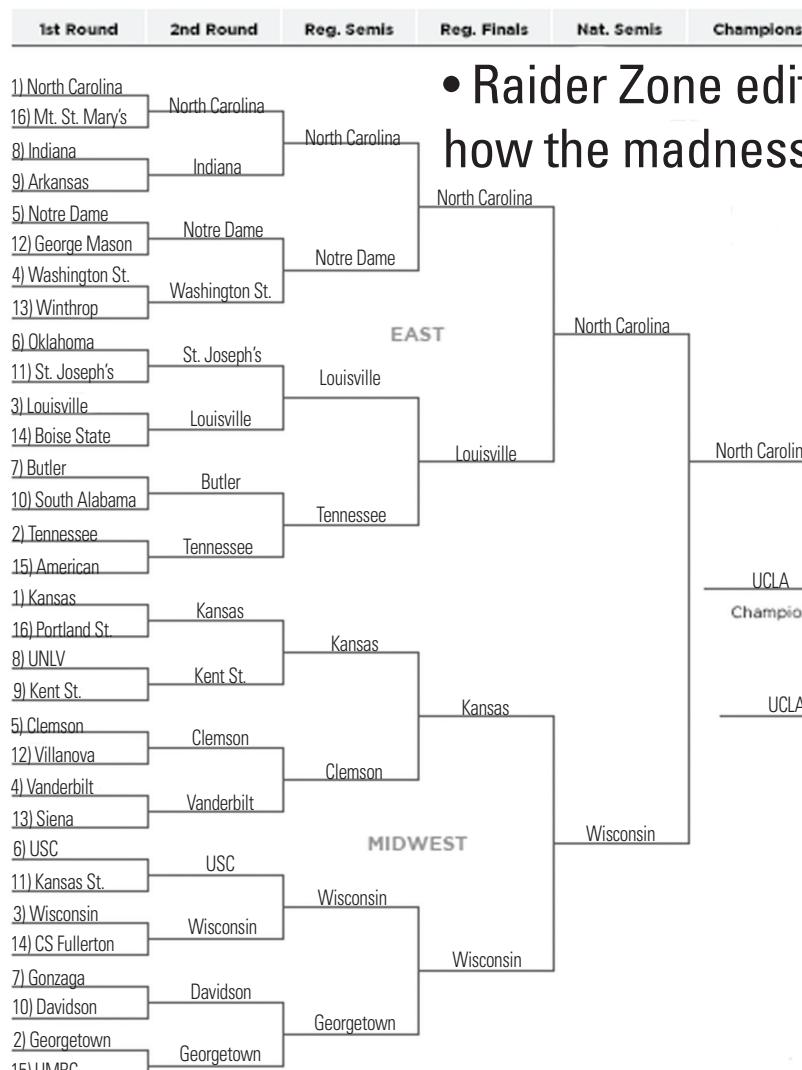
Yes, talented Kansas squads have squandered chances at a deep tournament run in the past, but this is the best team coach Bill Self has had in his five years in Lawrence. Combine forward Darrell Arthur's low-post presence with the deadly outside shooting of guards Brandon Rush and Mario Chalmers, and Kansas has the potential to blow anyone out of the gym. Yet, we still have Kansas losing to the Wisconsin Badgers in the Detroit regional final.

#### SOUTH 5 MICHIGAN ST. SPARTANS

Michigan State is our dark horse pick to make the Elite Eight after upsetting top seed Memphis in the Sweet Sixteen. For them, it depends upon senior guard Drew Neitzel's performance. Although Canton McKinley alum Raymar Morgan is the Spartans' leading scorer, Neitzel provides the outside shooting in bunches keeping them in every game. We project the Spartans, without the help of their student section to fall in Houston to the local favorites, the Texas Longhorns.

#### WEST 2 DUKE BLUE DEVILS

What Duke lacks in size, they make up for in shooting because they are one a strong perimeter shooting team. Led by guard DeMarcus Nelson, Duke is averaging 84.1 points per game. Other perimeter threats include Jon Scheyer and Greg Paulus, both of whom shoot 40-plus percent on three pointers. We coach Mike Krzyzewski's team losing to UCLA, however.



### NATIONAL SEMIFINALISTS

#### MIDWEST 3 WISCONSIN BADGERS

If there's one Final Four sleeper that no analyst is talking about, it's Wisconsin. The Badgers will make opponents play to their tempo, a defense dominated, plodding style. During the season, they held opponents to an NCAA season low 53.8 points per game. Offensively, Brian Butch is starting to heat up

from the perimeter, forcing opposing big men to step out on the 6'11" center. The outside shooting of Butch, guard Michael Flowers and off the bench guard Jason Bohannon will spread the floor and open up driving lanes for forward Marcus Landry and guard Trevon Hughes.

We think the Badgers' efficiency on offense and defense will take them to the Final Four, only to lose to North Carolina, who gives even the best defenses match up problems all over the floor. We're telling you not to sleep on the Wisconsin Badgers, even if you fall asleep watching them play.

#### • Raider Zone editors predict how the madness will unfold



### NATIONAL FINALIST

#### EAST 1 NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

The North Carolina Tar Heels enter the NCAA Tournament as the number one overall seed. The top team in the nation, according to various polls, potentially won't leave the state of North Carolina until they reach the Final Four. The Heels are unquestionably led by National Player of the Year candidate Tyler Hansbrough, a pest wherever he is on the floor. Hansbrough averages 23 points per game, 10.4 rebounds per game and plays at the highest intensity possible.

They also have an underrated piece in 6'10" center Connor Atchley, who averages 9.4 points and two blocks per game. Damion James, a 6'7" "tweener," is also tough to keep off the glass, averaging 10.5 rebounds per game. Texas gets the privilege of playing in Houston for the regional round and in San Antonio for the Final Four, should they make it that far. We think they'll lose to a deeper UCLA team in the Final Four.

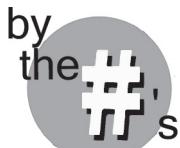
#### WEST 1 UCLA BRUINS

The UCLA Bruins have the easiest path to the Final Four among all of the national title contenders. They are also the most experienced team in the field, having made the Final Four in each of the last two years. Coach Ben Howland's teams always play aggressive and tough man-to-man defense. This year is no exception, as the Bruins give up only an average of 59.1 points per game. Guard Darren Collison is one of the quickest players in the country and he can keep up with quicker guards such as Ty Lawson. UCLA has a strong inside game with 6'10" freshman center Kevin Love who averages 17.1 points and 10.6 rebounds per game.

Because they are the best match up against the Heels, UCLA's tough defense, offensive efficiency and inside depth will lead the Bruins over North Carolina in the end.



THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team gets pumped during introductions before defeating Bedford 63-38. The team won the LEL for the second year in the row.



**16-7**  
**8-0**

**LEL CHAMPIONS**

## A DISTRICT DOWNER

• Women's basketball loses to Warren Howland in district finals,

BY TEDDY CAHILL  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

For the team picked in the preseason as a state title contender, it just seemed as though something was off all season.

While the women's basketball team amassed a 16-8 record, including an undefeated Lake Erie League campaign, the team just couldn't consistently find the right combination to finish the job last year's team started, when the Raiders won the Solon district title and advanced to the regional semifinals in Canton.

"Last year we were a bit more focused," coach Don Readance said. "The chemistry was a little off this year. We played good ball, we just didn't get to the next level."

This year the team was seeded second in the Solon district and advanced to the finals before falling 50-38 to Warren Howland.

The 2007-08 season wasn't without success however. The Raiders won their second straight LEL championship compiling an 8-0 mark and outscoring their opponents by an average of 35.5 points, with no game closer than 12 points.

Junior forward Karisma Penn led the team in scoring, averaging 19.6 points per game and rebounding with 13.1. This highly touted

prospect is being recruited by some of the best women's basketball programs in the country, including last year's NCAA tournament runner-up Rutgers. Penn was voted LEL MVP by the coaches and also garnered third team all-Ohio honors and first team all-District.

Penn was joined by senior teammates Pitts, Aja Fitten and Jasmine Jones on the all-LEL squad. Fitten also earned honorable mention honors for the Northeast Ohio district. Pitts, who has committed to play basketball at Miami University next year, was named to the all-District third team.

Pitts and Penn formed one of the best post combinations in the state this season, but with Penn losing last season to a knee injury, it took some time to learn to play together.

"They are two of the more talented post players in the area and it kind of gave us an automatic advantage," Readance said. "It takes time to mesh, but they did a good job looking for each other."

Shaker certainly played a tougher schedule than ever before, traveling to two big tournaments and playing in the North Gym only eight times all season. They faced some of the best teams in the state, including Division II state runner up Hathaway Brown and Division III state qualifier Regina. Readance had hoped the tougher schedule would prepare the team to face tough competition away from home during the playoffs.

"We didn't get a chance to put it into play," Readance said. "I was hoping we could have drawn on our experiences, but I still would have gone with the same schedule."

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



**Karisma Penn**

•LAKE ERIE LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR  
•THIRD TEAM ALL-OHIO  
•FIRST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT

## Hockey frozen out of first

BY TEDDY CAHILL  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**A**fter the hockey team was relegated from their traditional place in the elite Red North to the second-rate Red East division, the team wanted nothing more than to get back to their original position in the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League.

"It is the ultimate insult to the team, organization and especially the coach," senior captain Sam Wier said before the season.

The team soon learned they would need to win their new division to have a chance at regaining a place in the top division, a task easier said than done. Hockey in

the Cleveland area has grown more competitive in recent years, and new programs have joined the historic state powerhouses such as Shaker, St. Edward and University School.

The Raiders started the league schedule strong, winning four of their first divisional games including their first three at home. The year's highlight may have been the first home game when Shaker defeated Walsh Jesuit 4-1.

"It was a close game for a while and then we just pushed out in front," Murray said. "We had a lot of fans come out to the game."

The team endured tough defeats from University School and Mentor, but finished the regular season with an 8-10-3 record and a 4-6 Red East record. It was enough to earn a first round bye in the playoffs. The team lost to Solon in the playoffs, ending a difficult season for the hockey team.

by  
the  
#1's  
**8-10-3**  
**4-6**  
**2ND IN RED EAST**



JUNIOR DEFENSEMAN STEVE London gets ready for a faceoff during a 4-1 opening win over Walsh Jesuit. This year was the team's first season after being relegated to the Red East.

## Wells wins MVP, but Shaker loses title

BY TEDDY CAHILL  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Replacing four senior starters was difficult for the men's basketball team, but stomaching a five game-losing streak to archrival Cleveland Heights dating back to last year was even harder.

For the second year in a row, the Raiders were knocked out of the sectional playoffs in the second round by Cleveland Heights, losing 64-61 on Feb. 15.

Shaker lost seven members of last year's Lake Erie League championship team including leading scorer Nick Winbush, who is playing for Miami University. The team also had to replace high-flying power forward Cameron Thompson and starting point guard Jarren Hill.

Finding Hill's replacement wasn't difficult for coach Bob Wonson, who simply moved Cleveland State recruit Anthony Wells to the point. Wells responded well averaging 23.8 points and two assists per game. Senior Darius

Minor stepped into the role of power forward. Minor earned an all-LEL selection.

What failed the Raiders and positioned them in fourth was not the inability to find consistent scorers outside Wells and Minor but their seeming unwillingness to buy into assistant coach Danny Young's defensive philosophy. All too often Shaker let their opponents dictate the tempo of the game. After getting taken apart twice by the Tigers, Shaker was able to maintain the scoring to a manageable level in the sectional final. It still wasn't enough however, as the Tiger's Sir Christian Williams broke a 61-61 tie with 17.2 seconds left on a three-point play.

Despite the disappointing finish, the team won't have as much depth to replace next season, as only five players will graduate. Of these seniors, Minor's low post presence will be most difficult to replace, but Cullen Clair's defense will also be missed.

"Cullen is the most improved player on the team," Wonson said. "We ask him to guard players vastly bigger than him, and he handles it well."

by  
the  
#1's  
**12-12**  
**3-5**  
**4TH IN LEL**



## COACH WINS STATE RECOGNITION

Though it wasn't the award men's basketball head coach Bob Wonson wanted, he is happy to be recognized by the OHSAA. Wonson was awarded the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, which goes to one men's and one women's coach each year. "I'd rather win states," Wonson said. "It's nice that people feel good enough about me to award me that plaque." Wonson was nominated by the Northeast Ohio district director and received his award during the state championship in Columbus. "Somebody has to win it," Wonson said. "I have a lot of friends around the state, I was blessed to get the award."

## SPRING PREVIEW : TEAMS TO WATCH

### Freshman talent tops shaker tennis line-up



TOMMY MARX, ONE of the tennis team's talented freshman, hits a forehand during tournament play.

Courtesy of Tommy Marx

BY JOSH CURRY  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**D**espite losing both their coach and number one singles player, the men's tennis team believes this year will be anything but a rebuilding year.

The team is rightfully optimistic. Despite losing last year's first singles player, Jeremy Polster, to graduation, the team gained two skilled freshman: Tommy Marx and David Gabriel. "The top seven this year is

stacked," junior player Nic Howe said. "We've got just as much talent as last year and we've got depth, too."

Over the last 27 years, Shaker has won 25 Lake Erie League titles, four district doubles titles, three district singles titles and a state title in 2000. This year's squad is excited at the prospect of carrying on the Shaker men's tennis dynasty.

"We have a good chance to win states and we are by far the best

Last year's record: 18-5  
Top players : Tommy Marx, Greg Woyczyński, David Gabriel  
What to look for this year: Strong line-up, young talent

team in the LEL," Howe said.

This year, Marx replaces Polster as the first singles player.

"The team's cool," Marx said. "Even though I'm younger than the rest of the team I feel that we have good chemistry."

Marx's youth does not equate to inexperience. In the under-14 class, which he recently graduated from, Marx was ranked number one in the Midwest and in the top five in the country. In the under-16 class, Marx's current class, he is ranked twentieth in the Midwest. Further, Marx and his doubles partner, Bjorn Fratangelo, recently won the Winter Nationals tournament in Arizona.

Marx, like the rest of the team, has high goals for this season. "I'm looking to win states," Marx said.

Along with Marx, Shaker tennis has obtained other key personnel, including a new coach. This year, coach Danny Klein replaces long time coach Al Slawson. Klein graduated from Shaker in 1999, and is heralded as one of the best tennis players in Shaker history. "He's a real cool guy and is trying to get everyone better," Marx said. "He understands what needs to be done and relates well to us."

### Softball returns eight, star pitcher Peter

BY JOSH CURRY  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**W**hile a losing record marked last year's schedule, the Shaker softball team looks positively toward the 2008 season.

The team only graduated two seniors last year, something head coach James Schmidt hopes will be an advantage. "We're returning a lot of varsity players. We should benefit from the experience."

This experience should produce a marked improvement from last year's season, when the team was comprised of over ten first-year varsity players. "Once you see a year of varsity, you always come back tougher," Schmidt said.

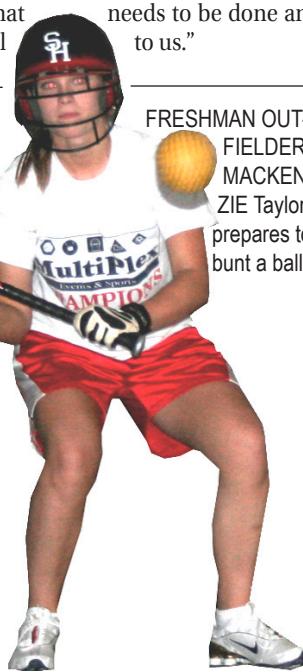
The team's strength lies in their pitching and defense.

Last year, pitcher Kathy Peter, a sophomore at the time, pitched a perfect game against Cleveland Heights. Peter, like the rest of her teammates, should only improve her game with one more year's experience.

Suffering from poor hitting in previous seasons, speed at the top of the line-up should be beneficial to the team's offense this year.

While Peter hopes for a winning season, Schmidt aims higher. "We want to do well in the LEL," Schmidt said. "Beating Mentor and finishing at the top of the league is not impossible."

Last year's record: 8-10  
Top players : Kathy Peter, Erin Rucker, Donna Polk, Brittany Petures, Jaclyn Ingles  
What to look for this year: Experience, solid defense, strong pitching, speed at top of line-up

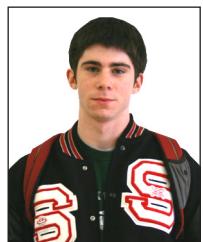


FRESHMAN OUTFIELDER MACKENZIE Taylor prepares to bunt a ball.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

### Shaker's top springtime athletes:

Based on past accomplishments and expected performance.



Frank Triozzi

Baseball  
Junior catcher  
Captain and returning varsity starter



Kathy Peter

Softball  
Junior pitcher  
Pitched a perfect game last year



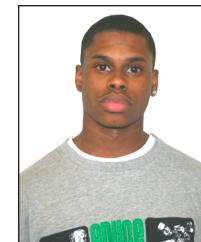
Neil Nash

Men's lacrosse  
Senior midfielder  
Captain and returning varsity starter



Rachel Licina

Women's lacrosse  
Sophomore attack  
Injured last year



Keith Cleveland

Men's track  
Junior Sprinter  
State qualifier



Shaniqua McGinnis

Women's track  
Senior sprinter  
Relay state champion  
Individual state qualifier



Su Dong • The Shakerite

FRESHMAN ANDREW CASTLEBERRY and junior Dawit Challa warm up during a practice in the multipurpose room.

### Men's track promising

BY JOSH CURRY  
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**W**ith two members remaining from last year's state qualifying 4X400-meter dash team, coach Beano Watkins says that the greatest strength of the men's track team lies in the leadership of experienced runners.

Keith Cleveland and Perez Ashford are the remaining members of the relay team; however, they hope to shine in their individual events, the 400-meter dash and the 100-meter dash, respectively.

Alongside these sprinters, the team has strong hurdlers, including juniors Amadou Gueye, Tré Gordon, and Matt Laird.

The distance squad is experienced, though not as dominant as the sprinters have been. "We're actually getting in the realm of good," mile-runner Eian Katz said.

Without any seniors, the men's track team may be the youngest at the high school. The amass of youth should give the team a bright future.

Last year's standing: 5th in LEL  
Top athletes : Keith Cleveland, Perez Ashford  
What to look for this year: Experienced sprinters, strong hurdlers, solid distance squad